SPECIAL REPORT: RADICAL ENVIRONMENTALISM & TERRORISM — PAGES 10-13

Environment & Climate News

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High-latitude studies refute global warming

Canadian, Russian data show current temperatures well within normal range

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

The first and most striking signs of human-induced global warming should be evident at the higher polar latitudes, according to virtually all climate change alarmists and the computer models they tout.

The latest round of high-latitude studies, however, shows polar temperatures are comfortably within the normal range. The often-predicted global warming is nowhere to be found.

Hudson Strait ice wedges

In a new study reported in *The Holocene* 11:563-577 (2001), Dr. J.N. Kasper and Dr. M. Allard examined the growth and decay of ice wedges on the shore of Hudson Strait in northern Quebec.

As described by the Center for the Study of Carbon Dioxide and Global Change (www.co2science.org), "Ice wedges are a widespread and abundant form of ground ice in permafrost regions of the world that deform and crack the soil. During colder periods, ice wedge activity is enhanced, while in warmer periods it is minimized, thus providing a record of climate change."

Studying the ice wedge record of the Hudson Strait over the past 4,000 years, Kasper and Allard discovered the following: Cold conditions existed from the beginning of the record until about 140 A.D. Between 140 and 1030 A.D., however, the

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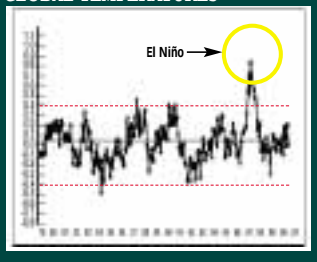
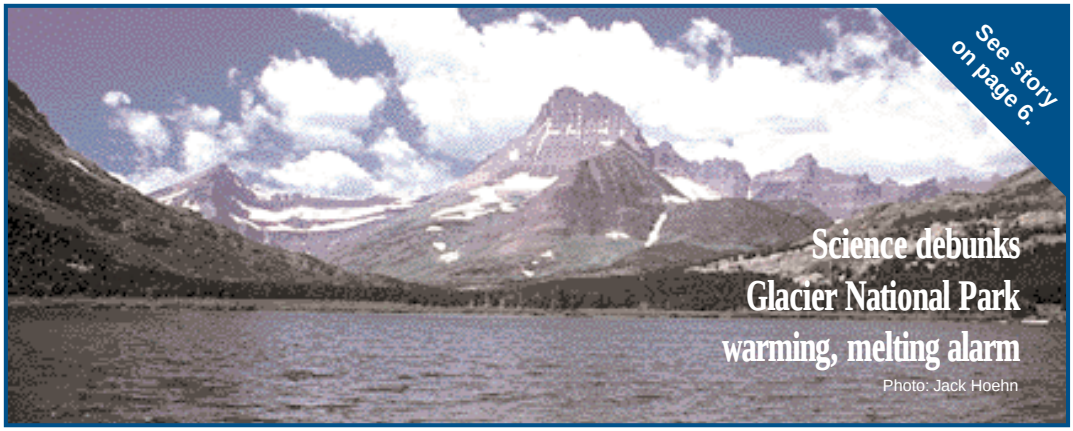
Is *this* global warming?

GLOBAL TEMPERATURES



Each month, *Earth Track* updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. *See page 4*



See story on page 6.

Science debunks Glacier National Park warming, melting alarm

Photo: Jack Hoehn

Is sprawl a defense against terrorism?

BY RANDAL O'TOOLE

Since the shock of September 11, almost every interest group in the nation is putting its spin on the terrorist attacks. Automobile opponents such as Gar Smith of *Earth Island Journal* blame the attacks on U.S. consumption of oil.

Following that line of thought, others say we should build more rail transit and intercity rail lines and promote smart growth. The U.S. "cannot depend on any single mode of transportation," says Mayor John Robert Smith of Meridian, Mississippi.

Some urban mayors even hope the recent tragedy will give urban residents a "sense of community" that will keep them in the cities. Pittsburgh's Mayor Thomas Murphy thinks installing metal detectors in public buildings and hiring more police will provide an urban atmosphere that is "safe and vibrant," so residents won't flee to the suburbs.

Environmentalists committed to smart growth feel a moral imperative to maintain dense inner cities. "The No. 1 environmental concern is that the center holds," says Eric Goldstein, a lawyer with the Natural Resources Defense Council in favor of a "strong central core." Suburbanization, claims Goldstein, would lead to increasing congestion, air pollution, longer commutes, and loss of open space. (Readers of the *Vanishing Automobile* know all of these claims are wrong.)

"Don't bunch up"

Contrary to all these attempts at spin, historian Stephen Ambrose points out the real lesson behind the terrorist attack: "Don't bunch up." Maintaining a "strong central core," he explains, only offers terrorists a better target.

"It is no longer necessary to pack so many people and offices into such small spaces as lower Manhattan," writes Ambrose. "They can be scattered in neighboring regions and states,

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Energy bill offers a mixed tax bag

The administration's energy blueprint addresses both production and conservation, and it looks to tax relief and incentives to achieve some of its goals

BY MICHAEL SCHUYLER

The House of Representatives has passed H.R. 4, which contains much of the energy plan proposed by the Bush administration. Ahead lies Senate consideration and, if the Senate approves an energy bill, a House-Senate conference to reconcile the two.

The administration's energy blueprint addresses both production and conservation, and it looks to tax relief and incentives to achieve some of its goals. As the energy plan emerged from the House, it included among its provisions tax changes with an estimated 10-year revenue cost of $33.5 billion.

H.R. 4 offers a mixed bag with respect to its tax provisions: Some are consistent with good tax policy and a reformed tax system, while others are not.

On the positive side, all the bill's tax provisions would cut taxes. That would slow the growth of government by leaving Washington with less taxpayer money to spend. This advantage would be lost, of course, if revenue offsets should be added later to the bill.

On the negative side, a theme running through

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Former Greenpeace academic slams radical Greens

A funny thing happened as the environmentalists sought to prove Julian Simon and the skeptics wrong. "Three months into the project, we were convinced that we were being debunked instead."

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

It is not unusual for scientists and public policy experts to present evidence contesting the doom-and-gloom proclamations of environmental activists.

What is unusual, and highly damaging, is for a prominent environmental activist to turn the tables on the Greens themselves.

Danish professor and prominent former Greenpeace member Bjorn Lomborg has done such damage to the radical environmentalist movement with the publication of his scathing book, *The Skeptical Environmentalist*.

Lomborg, a political scientist, professor of statistics at the University of Aarhus in Denmark, and prominent former Greenpeace member, began his journey from environmental activist to green-scare skeptic after reading an interview of preeminent free-market scholar Julian Simon in *Wired* magazine.

Convinced Simon was dead wrong on a number of environment issues, Lomborg and some of his colleagues set out to expose the "errors" in Simon's analyses.

A funny thing happened as the environmentalists sought to prove Simon and the skeptics wrong. States Lomborg, "Three months into the project, we were convinced that we were being debunked instead. Not everything he said is right. He has a definite right-wing slant. But most of the important things were actually correct."

"A Litany" of political ideas

From those beginnings, Lomborg eventually compiled his similar findings in *The Skeptical Environmentalist*.

The book itself, while quite comprehensive and well documented (it includes almost 3,000 supporting footnotes), is not the first of its kind to use objective scientific analysis to debunk environmentalist myths. Indeed, the substance of Lomborg's arguments and even the structure of the book itself closely tracks *Eco-Sanity: A Common-Sense Guide to Environmentalism*, authored by Joseph L. Bast, Peter J. Hill, and Richard C. Rue, published by Madison Books and The Heartland Institute.

What makes *The Skeptical Environmentalist* so noteworthy—and especially to the mainstream media—is that the book is authored by one of the Green movement's most prominent members.

With a unique insight into the behind-the-scenes workings of environmental activism, Lomborg takes special aim at public statements made by such activist groups as the Worldwatch Institute, World Wildlife Fund, and Greenpeace itself.

Lomborg identifies "A Litany" of political ideas frequently espoused by the groups that have no basis in scientific fact but have nevertheless been swallowed hook, line, and sinker by the mainstream media. "The Litany has pervaded the debate so deeply and so long," writes Lomborg, "that blatantly false claims can be made again and again, without any references, and yet still be believed." By contrast, one thing Lomborg certainly does provide in his book is scientific references.

Taking aim at global warming

Receiving substantial attention in *The Skeptical Environmentalist* is global warming theory. Lomborg observes there are several "wild cards" that come into play when assessing the effects of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases on the Earth's atmosphere. Those wild cards include the effects of clouds, aerosols, and the sunspot cycle, as well as the multiplier effect of carbon dioxide.

Lomborg notes the warming effects of greenhouse gases are mitigated by a corresponding increase in solar-reflecting clouds. As the air begins to warm, it can hold more water, resulting in an increase in cloud cover. Those clouds then reflect more sunlight back into space, resulting in a balance-restoring cooling. Satellite readings confirm that global temperatures have not risen in recent decades, while the Earth has seen a slight increase in cloud cover.

Lomborg presents similar scientific evidence regarding aerosols, the sunspot cycle, and the multiplier effect of carbon dioxide. He observes that greenhouse computer programmers fail to properly account for these factors in their climate models. By failing to account for these wild cards, Lomborg points out, the models conclude we should already be toasting under a greatly enhanced greenhouse effect. And yet satellite temperature measurements show no such warming has occurred.

Debunking deforestation

Lomborg also takes environmental activists to task for spreading false propaganda about global deforestation.

In its 1998 "State of the World" report, for example, the Worldwatch Institute claims "The world's forest estate has declined significantly in both area and quality in recent decades." Lomborg documents, however, that U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization figures show global forest cover has actually increased from 30.04 percent in 1950 to 30.89 percent in 1994.

Lomborg further notes Worldwatch claimed "Canada is losing some 200,000 hectares of forest a year" due to soaring demand for paper. In fact, Lomborg shows, "Canada grew 174,600 more hectares of forest each year."

The Worldwatch Institute's inaccurate claims do not end with deforestation, notes Lomborg. In its 2000 report, Worldwatch warned of "record rates of population growth, soaring oil prices, debilitating levels of international debt and extensive damage to forests from . . . acid rain."

Lomborg cites figures from the Census Bureau, International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and European Environment Agency to show that world population growth has sharply slowed since 1964; international debt has declined since 1984; the inflation-adjusted price of oil is half what it was 20 years ago; and sulfur emissions and resulting acid rain are down substantially since 1984.

In short, *The Skeptical Environmentalist* affirms and adds weight to the scientific refutation of contemporary environmental activist claims. In the past, such activists could at least plausibly refute the evidence by attacking the messengers as having a right-wing axe to grind. Such cannot be said about *The Skeptical Environmentalist*.

"I'm a left-wing guy," says Lomborg, "and a vegetarian because I don't want to kill animals—you can't play the 'He's right-wing so he's wrong' argument" with me.

"Lomborg . . . began his journey from environmental activist to green-scare skeptic after reading an interview of preeminent free-market scholar Julian Simon . . ."

For more information...

WWW *The Skeptical Environmentalist*, published by Cambridge University Press in September 2001, is available at Amazon.com. Point your Web browser to **http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0521010683/theheartlandinst.**

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Grassroots opposition stalls CARA again

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

Grassroots opposition has stymied what had seemed to be an unstoppable House of Representatives' attempt to resurrect last year's Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA).

Referred to by property rights advocates as the "Land Grab Act," CARA was defeated in the House last year but reemerged this session with fully 220 sponsors. Nevertheless, grassroots opposition has once again placed the future of CARA in doubt.

Against the backdrop of a rapidly shrinking government surplus, CARA would require an expenditure of $45 billion over 15 years for government purchases of private lands to be taken over and administered "for the public benefit." CARA opponents warn "for the public benefit" generally means limited public access and land use restrictions championed by environmental activists.

Most House Democrats strongly support CARA, and many Republicans have also backed the bill, noting it provides compensation to landowners for the property sought by government. Support is weakening, however. Opposition among Republicans and even some Democrats has coalesced around a suspicion that CARA simply empowers the government to wage a "tax and spend" assault on private property for the benefit of environmental extremists.

How much is enough?

Robert Smith, a property rights expert at the Competitive Enterprise Institute, notes the federal government already owns more than 42 percent of the nation's land. "Where is the pressing need for additional land acquisition?" he asked during congressional hearings. "How much land do you intend ultimately for the government to own? How much is enough?"

Smith's concerns are bolstered by recent studies showing the government is failing to properly manage the land it already owns. (See "Park Service buys more land, maintains less," *Environment & Climate News*, January 2001.) Earlier this year, a study by the Department of the Interior's inspector general reported $13 billion in backlogged maintenance costs on federal land. The report noted crumbling buildings on Ellis Island, out-of-control forest fires in numerous national parks, and dangerous buildings in Montana federal parklands.

> **"Opposition among Republicans and even some Democrats has coalesced around a suspicion that CARA simply empowers the government to wage a 'tax and spend' assault on private property for the benefit of environmental extremists."**

In addition to the Department of Interior study, a General Accounting Office report concluded the federal government has not been able "to effectively carry out its maintenance responsibilities."

The federal government, according to Representative Butch Otter (R-Idaho), is "just not managing the land" it already owns. "Now we want them to buy more of it so it will all be in greater disrepair?"

A "disaster" for landowners

With grassroots opposition to CARA building, especially across rural America, Republican leaders are wary of dealing a heavy blow to the people most responsible for electing President George W. Bush to office. Claiming to protect private property by assigning federal tax dollars for its purchase amounts to little more than "a head fake," asserted Senator Don Nickles (R-Oklahoma).

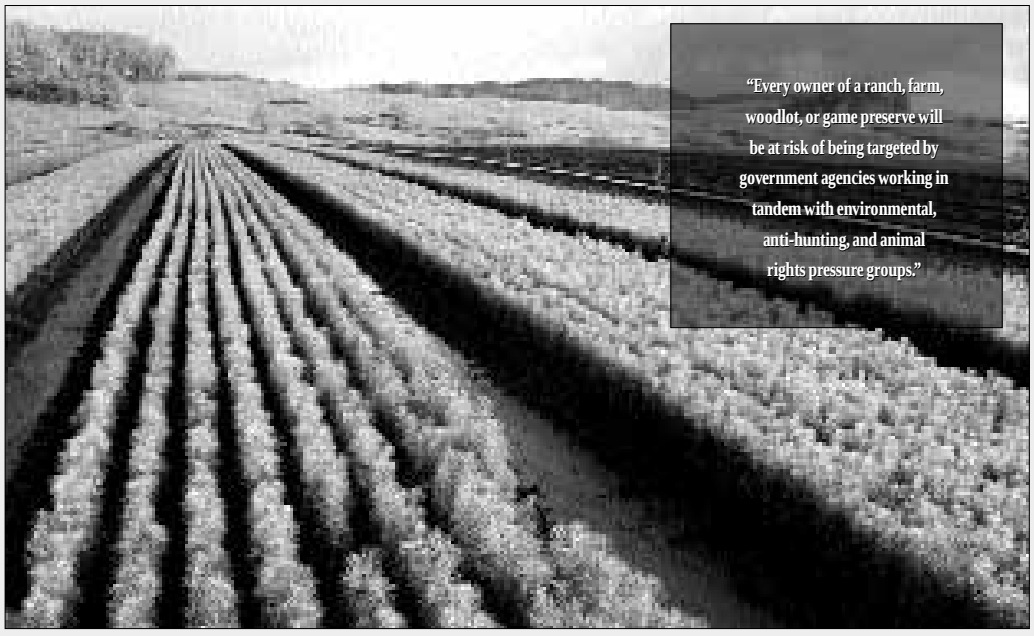
Republican opposition in the House has rallied around a letter read into the *Congressional Record* on July 25 by Representative Richard Pombo (R-California). The letter was written by Ronald Reagan's longtime friend G. Ray Arnett, who served Governor Reagan as his director of the California Department of Fish and Game, and then served President Reagan as assistant interior secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks.

CARA would be "a disaster for property owners," warns Arnett. "Every owner of a ranch, farm, woodlot, or game preserve will be at risk of being targeted by government agencies working in tandem with environmental, anti-hunting, and animal rights pressure groups."

Under the direction of environmental extremists, Arnett writes, federal and state agencies will target "lands historically and currently used for sport hunting, fishing, and trapping. This will subject the property's sporting use to the whim of bureaucracies that are increasingly hostile to sport hunting, fishing, trapping, and firearms ownership."

Moreover, states Arnett, CARA "will interfere with the Bush-Cheney administration's plans to reduce the multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog in the National Park Service and other federal agencies."

Once believed to be a legislative inevitability this year, the momentum shift against CARA in the House is encouraging to private property supporters and rural Americans. Last year, CARA passed the House by a 315-102 vote before succumbing to Senate bickering over funding oversight.



> **"Every owner of a ranch, farm, woodlot, or game preserve will be at risk of being targeted by government agencies working in tandem with environmental, anti-hunting, and animal rights pressure groups."**

BlueRibbon Coalition forms PAC

BY CLARK L. COLLINS

Following considerable research by staff and careful deliberation by the board and officers, the BlueRibbon Coalition announced at its 14th annual meeting the formation of the group's first political action committee, dubbed BRC PAC.

The BlueRibbon Coalition is a nonprofit organization tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The 501(c)(3) status means contributions to the Coalition are tax-deductible . . . but 501(c)(3) organizations are severely limited in the lobbying they can undertake, and strictly prohibited from endorsing or contributing to political candidates.

Contributions to the newly formed BRC PAC are not tax-deductible, and they will be kept strictly segregated from tax-deductible contributions made to the 501(c)(3) Coalition. As permitted by the Federal Election Commission, the Coalition will pay all administrative and fundraising costs for the PAC—meaning 100 percent of contributions made to the PAC will be dedicated to political action.

Importance of political action

The BlueRibbon Coalition was established in 1987 to increase the effectiveness of various recreation interests through teamwork. Working separately, off-highway motorcyclists, snowmobilers, boaters, ATVers, 4x4 enthusiasts, equestrians, and mountain bikers are a much less effective grassroots force for change than a coalition of these groups working together.

For more information...

WWW about the BRC PAC contact the BRC office by phone 208/237-1008, fax 208/237-9424, or email **brcpac@sharetrails.org.**

We all realize that our recreation access is heavily influenced by Federal, state, and local elected officials. It is important that we work to elect recreation user-friendly candidates to these offices.

Until now, the BlueRibbon Coalition has been prohibited from attempting to directly influence the outcome of important elections. Our members, officers, and staff have always been able to personally support the candidates of their choice. Now, their efforts can have even greater impact through the BRC PAC, which as an organization will be able to endorse, and contribute to, candidates who support our recreation access agenda.

Through the BRC PAC, your political contributions can be pooled with those of other members to help raise awareness of recreation access concerns in the eyes of candidates for office. We are hopeful that other recreation group PACs might consider combining financial support for friendly candidates to enhance our influence.

BRC western representative Don Amador has been named president of the PAC, and office manager Teresa Combe will serve as its treasurer.

Clark L. Collins is executive director of the BlueRibbon Coalition.

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Do people cause global warming?

What the scientific evidence reveals

BY FREDERICK SEITZ AND ROBERT JASTROW

The debate over the President's decision on the Kyoto Protocol has focused media and public attention on the question of global climate: Do people cause global warming?

During the last 100 years, the average temperature of the Earth's surface has increased by one degree Fahrenheit. In that same period, the atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide increased by 25 percent. A large part of the increase in carbon dioxide is the product of human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels. Is it possible that these two increases—the rise in Earth's temperature and the rise in carbon dioxide resulting from human activity—are connected?

A blue ribbon panel of scientists, convened by the National Academy of Sciences in response to a request by President Bush, concluded that they are. The separate summary that accompanies the panel's full report states in its opening sentence: "Changes [in the temperature of the Earth] observed in the last several decades are likely mostly due to human activities." But the report also states that "The most valuable contribution U.S. scientists can make is to continually question basic assumptions and conclusions." It is in that spirit that this critique is written.

"Satellites and high altitude balloons have been monitoring the temperature of the atmosphere throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and they show no warming trend. The greenhouse 'fingerprint' is missing."

We find the scientific evidence clearly indicates the global warming in the last 100 years is likely not due mostly to human activities.

The first thing to note is that the 100 years of global warming occurred in two stages—a temperature rise of approximately a half-degree Fahrenheit early in the century from 1910 to 1940, and another half-degree temperature rise toward the end of the century in the 1980s and 1990s.

Between these two periods of warming, from the 1940s to the 1970s, the Earth actually cooled somewhat. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide cannot cool the planet; they can only warm it. So we have to conclude that some other natural factors in climate change were at work in those middle decades of the century.* For example, we know the brightness of the sun changes now and then; if the sun's brightness decreased, that would cause a global cooling.

*It has been suggested that the cooling effect of aerosols is the explanation for the occurrence of the global cooling in the 1950s and 1960s, rather than the predicted global warming. Aerosols are small particles which partly screen the earth from incident sunlight and tend to cool the planet.

This explanation for the absence of greenhouse warming in the 1950s and 1960s can be tested by looking at the Northern and Southern Hemispheres separately. Aerosols are produced mainly in the industrialized nations of the Northern Hemisphere and usually do not get across the equator; they are washed out by rain in a few weeks.

In the Southern Hemisphere the warming effect of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere should be fully evident. But it is not. The two hemispheres display the same pattern of temperature change. The fact that the cooling in the 1950s and 1960s is a feature of the temperature records of both hemispheres indicates that the absence of the predicted global warming cannot be due to aerosols.

How about the warming of the Earth early in the century, from 1910 to 1940? At that time, the global emission of carbon dioxide from cars, trucks, and factories was relatively low—too low to account for the half-degree warming. Here also, natural factors in climate change, rather than human activities, must have been responsible.

That leaves the second spell of global warming, from the 1980s through the 1990s. By that time, copious amounts of carbon dioxide produced by human activities were entering the atmosphere at many times the rates of emission earlier in the century. This recent global warming fits the timing of those big increases in carbon dioxide emissions, and could have been caused by them.

"[T]he scientific facts indicate that all the temperature changes observed in the last 100 years were largely natural changes and were not caused by carbon dioxide produced in human activities."

However, it could also be due to natural causes of climate change. On natural variability, the NAS study has this to say: "Because there is considerable uncertainty in current understanding of how the climate system varies naturally and reacts to emissions . . . current estimates of future warming should be regarded as tentative and subject to future adjustment (either upward or downward)."

How can we tell whether human activity, in contrast to natural variability, is the probable cause of the recent global warming?

Greenhouse "fingerprint"

Fortunately, the temperature increases caused by the greenhouse effect have a special property—the greenhouse "fingerprint"—that does not appear to be possessed by other causes of global warming.

This "fingerprint" is connected with the way the greenhouse effect works. When carbon dioxide is emitted into the atmosphere, it absorbs heat coming up from the surface of the Earth. The absorbed heat warms the atmosphere, and the warm atmosphere then radiates some of that heat back downward to the surface of the Earth, warming the surface. That chain of events is the greenhouse effect.

The key link in the chain is the absorption of heat by the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. As noted, this absorption warms the atmosphere, which in turn warms the Earth's surface. If there is no warming in the atmosphere, there is no additional warming of the Earth's surface, and therefore no greenhouse effect. A warming trend in the atmosphere is the "fingerprint" of the greenhouse effect.

What do the temperature measurements tell us? Satellites and high altitude balloons have been monitoring the temperature of the atmosphere throughout the 1980s and 1990s, and they show no warming trend. The greenhouse "fingerprint" is missing.

The NAS study acknowledges the difficulty this creates for the prevailing theories of global warming based on carbon dioxide and the greenhouse effect. It is surprising, therefore, that it did not acknowledge the lack of the greenhouse "fingerprint"; without this, it cannot be the greenhouse effect that caused the global warming of the 1980s and 1990s. Once again, that global warming must be mainly the result of natural factors influencing climate.

Science concludes warming is natural

So we see the scientific facts indicate all the temperature changes observed in the last 100 years were largely natural changes and were not caused by carbon dioxide produced in human activities. At least one distinguished member of the NAS panel agrees.

Richard Lindzen—professor of meteorology at MIT, highly respected atmospheric physicist, and member of the National Academy of Sciences as well as the special NAS panel on global warming—said in a recent commentary, "I cannot stress this enough—we [cannot] confidently attribute past climate change to carbon dioxide."

Frederick Seitz is president emeritus of Rockefeller University and past president of the National Academy of Sciences. Robert Jastrow is chairman of the George C. Marshall Institute.

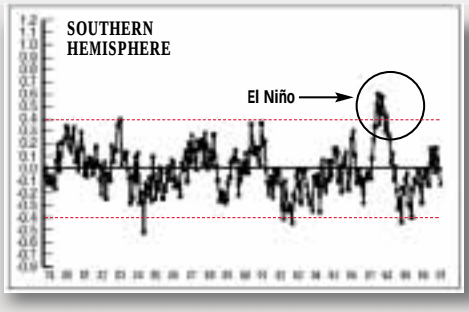
EARTH TRACK

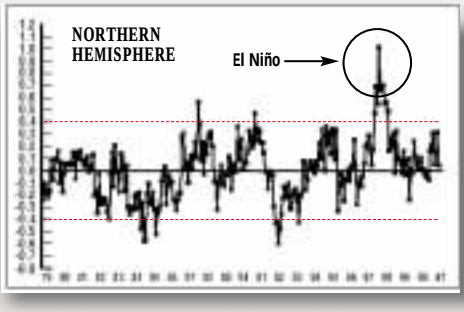
SEPTEMBER 2001

The global average temperature for September, shown on page 1, was 0.047˚C below normal. The Southern Hemisphere's temperature departure, shown below, was 0.135˚C below normal; the Northern Hemisphere's, below right, was 0.041˚C above normal.

Each month, Earth Track *updates the global averaged monthly satellite measurements of the Earth's temperature. These numbers are important because they are real—not projections, forecasts, or guesses.*

Global satellite measurements are made from a series of orbiting platforms that sense the average temperature in various atmospheric layers. Here, we present the lowest level, which climate models say should be warming. The satellite measurements are considered accurate to within 0.01°C.





The data used to create these graphs can be found on the Internet at *http://vortex.nsstc.uah.edu/data/msu/t2lt/t2ltglhmam.d.*

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Satellite data show CO_2 creating a greener planet

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

The Earth's northern hemisphere is a significantly greener place today than it was 20 years ago, according to satellite readings reported in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

Satellite images show lush plant growth has accelerated throughout the northern hemisphere, with the most noticeable gains occurring above 40 degrees north latitude (a line running through New York City, Madrid, and Beijing).

Using a satellite designed to measure changes in vegetation, Dr. Liming Zhao and five coauthors concluded the productive growing season in parts of northern Eurasia lasts 18 days longer per year than it did in 1981. The productive growing season in some areas of northern North America lasts 12 days longer.

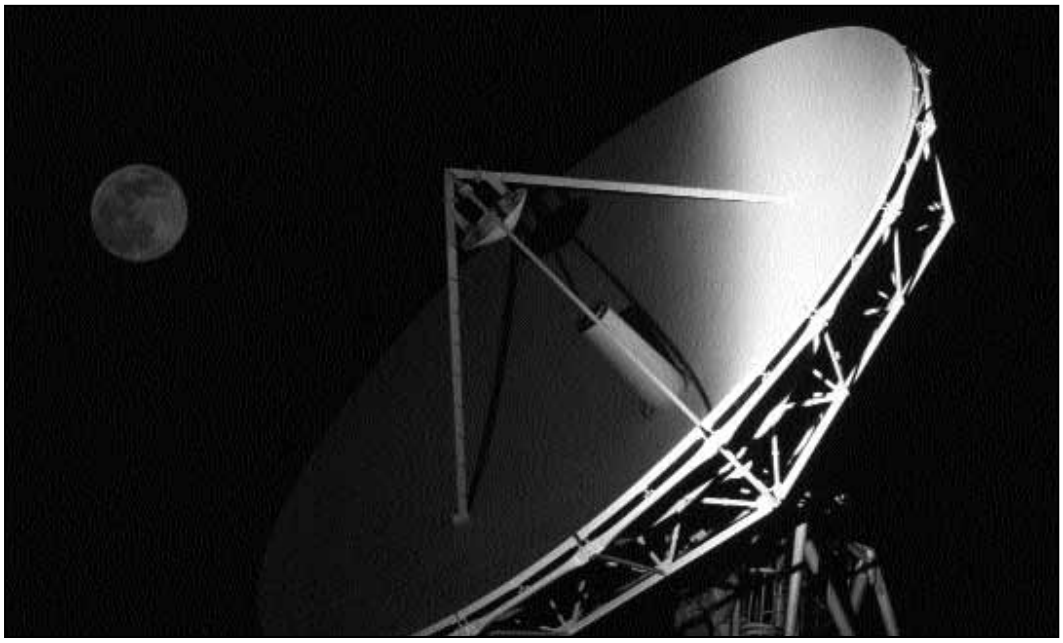
The paper speculates the greener hemisphere is due to a combination of heightened atmospheric CO_2—a well-documented superfertilizer—and a corresponding rise in mean temperatures.

Taking the paper's temperature speculation at its word (although independent satellite temperature readings show no rise in temperatures over the past 20 years), the new data present a strong rebuttal to global warming alarmists' predictions that dire consequences would follow any planetary warming.

Rather than producing the scalding heat waves and plant-killing droughts predicted by the alarmists, the data show recent increases in atmospheric greenhouse gases have created a planet more nurturing and favorable to life.

It's the CO_2

A still more devastating blow to global warming alarmists is delivered by the broader data.



The North American greening has occurred despite a cooling trend in northeastern North America. The flourishing of vegetation and extension of the growing season, despite cooling temperatures, shows it is the increase in CO_2 itself, rather than any alleged global warming, that is primarily responsible for the vibrant health of plant life in the northern hemisphere.

The possible influence of temperature on greening would have been eliminated entirely, notes the Competitive Enterprise Institute's Paul Georgia, if satellite data for the southern U.S., between 30 and 40 degrees north latitude, had been taken into account by Zhao and colleagues.

"[T]he satellite data present a strong rebuttal to global warming alarmists' predictions that dire consequences would follow any planetary warming."

"Since the southern U.S. has greened significantly while temperatures have trended downward, including that data would have made the correlation between temperature and plant life disappear altogether," says Georgia.

No room for debate

Scientists continue to debate which system for measuring global temperature is more accurate: human-collected surface measurements showing a moderate warming, or satellite atmospheric measurements showing no warming at all.

But the new satellite vegetation readings leave little doubt that increasing levels of atmospheric CO_2 are creating a profoundly beneficial environment for the growth of trees, crops, and all other kinds of green vegetation.

LATITUDE continued from page 1

climate warmed. From 1040 to 1500 cold conditions recurred, and the cold spell dramatically accelerated from 1500 to 1900 during the Little Ice Age. A short warm period prevailed from 1900 to 1946, since which time the climate has once again cooled.

At the polar latitudes of the Hudson Strait, no warming is evident. The Kasper and Allard data throw a healthy bucket of ice water on global warming fears.

Northern Canadian sediment cores

In a second new study, this one reported in the *Journal of Paleolimnology* 25: 503-517 (2001), Drs. J.J. Moore, K.A. Hughen, G.H. Miller, and J.T. Overpeck analyzed sediment cores from Donard Lake at Baffin Island, Canada to compile summer temperature histories of the region during the past 1,240 years.

According to the study, summer temperatures averaged 2.9˚ Celsius (37˚ Fahrenheit) during the period, but varied widely during that time. Around 1000 and 1100 A.D., average summer temperatures reached as high as 4 degrees (39.2˚ Fahrenheit).

Beginning in 1195, Donard Lake experienced "one of the largest climatic transitions in over a millennium," as "average summer temperatures rose rapidly by nearly 2 degrees Celsius from 1195-1220 A.D., ending in the warmest decade in the record," with average temperatures of approximately 4.5 degrees (40.1˚ Fahrenheit).

After the dramatic warming in the 1195-1220 period, the warm conditions prevailed until 1375 A.D., when an abrupt cooling occurred. The first decade of that cooling was one of the coldest on record and launched the Little Ice Age in the region. Around 1800, the Little Ice Age ended, and warming occurred from 1800 to 1900.

From 1900 to 1950 the region dramatically cooled, before warming during the 1950s and 1960s. Since the 1960s, however, temperatures have been cooling once again.

The Moore study lends support to the findings of Kasper and Allard, that the high latitudes are actually much cooler today than has often been the case in recent history, and are indeed cooling still further today. The Moore study additionally shows the great temperature volatility that historically and naturally occurs independent of human influence.

In recent decades, global temperature readings taken by satellite show no global warming, and readings from the "early warning" polar latitudes show an actual cooling. When the next dramatic warming period occurs—as it inevitably will at some point—that will not in itself justify the global warming alarmism sure to follow.

Russian borehole readings

In a new study published in *Global and Planetary Change* 29:167-178 (2001), Dr. D.Y. Demezhko and Dr. V.A. Shchapov examined hole SG-4 in northern Russia's Ural Mountains to infer an 80,000-year temperature history of the region.

The study revealed the presence of the Holocene Optimum 4,000 to 6,000 years ago, when temperatures were significantly warmer than they are today. Moreover, the readings documented the Medieval Warm Period around the year 1000 and the Little Ice Age from 1500 to 1800.

"When the next dramatic warming period occurs—as it inevitably will at some point—that will not in itself justify the global warming alarmism sure to follow."

In addition to showing extended periods of high-latitude temperatures warmer than exist today, the Demezhko study found current temperatures are near the colder end of the historical spectrum. Indeed, Demezhko and Shchapov found temperatures today are measurably closer to the Little Ice Age extreme than they are to the Medieval Warm Period.

Especially significant, the Demezhko study shows that even if the high latitudes were to begin warming again—as global warming alarmists have repeatedly and inaccurately predicted—a great deal of warming could occur without inducing the cataclysms alarmists predict. Indeed, the warmest period in the record, the Holocene Optimum, received such a benevolent name for good reason.

Studies reaffirm other recent findings

These three new high-latitude temperature studies are even more compelling in that they follow on the heels of, and are consistent with the results of, other high-latitude temperature studies reported in the October issue of *Environment & Climate News*. (See "Polar ice cap studies refute global warming," October 2001.)

In those studies, careful measurements found ice caps in both the Arctic and Antarctic to be slightly increasing in size, rather than decreasing as claimed by global warming alarmists.

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Science debunks Glacier National Park warming, melting alarm

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

Another frenzy of global warming alarmism occurred in early September, when NBC reported America was about to lose one of its most famous national parks.

According to the report, glaciers are undergoing an unprecedented melting at Glacier National Park, and human-induced global warming is to blame. Reported NBC's Jim Avila, "the temperature's gone up an average of 3° in the park during the past 110 years."

But are human beings really causing Glacier National Park's famous alpine glaciers to melt? While the sensationalists say "yes," the science says "no."

Melting is nothing new

Patrick Michaels, professor of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and Cato Institute senior fellow, observes that climate data for the State of Montana and Glacier National Park go back to 1895. This is the starting point of the data cited by NBC. However,

"The glaciers are receding . . . not because of any current and human-induced global warming, but rather because temperatures remain stable at their post-Little Ice Age 1895 readings."

"inspection of the entire summer history yields no statistically significant warming whatsoever in Montana. Ditto for the annual record.

"In other words," Michaels continues, "Glacier's glaciers are being melted by temperatures that show no summer warming distinguishable from natural year-to-year variability over the past 107 years."

How can this be? How can the glaciers be melting if the temperature is no different today than it was 110 years ago? Science has the answer.

In 1895, according to Michaels, the glaciers "were melting then, too. . . . They started to melt as the region emerged from what is sometimes called the 'Little Ice Age,' a cold period that ended in the middle of the 19th century."

In making its sensationalist claims, NBC worked from the erroneous assumption that temperatures, and thus the glaciers themselves, must have been stable at the time we first began recording temperatures in the region. However, before anyone began keeping temperature records, and before humans allegedly began influencing atmospheric temperatures, global and regional temperatures had naturally warmed in the wake of the Little Ice Age.

Of course, the glaciers would not melt suddenly and all at once, but rather gradually over an extended period of time. The glaciers are receding from where they were 110 years ago not because of any current and human-induced global warming, but rather because temperatures remain stable at their post-Little Ice Age 1895 readings.

"The incident recalls similarly breathless and shoddy reporting two years ago about the melting of the hemisphere's largest ice complex, the Greenland ice cap, and its outflow glaciers," notes Michaels.

"There hasn't been any warming for a long time. Every graduate student who has ever passed a comprehensive exam in climatology knows that temperatures have been going down in this region for about 70 years. Like Glacier National Park, southern Greenland also warmed in the 19th century with the climb-out from the Little Ice Age.

"Instead of recycling an old story," says Michaels, "they could have produced a much better one—real news—by showing that Glacier's glaciers have been melting like this for well over a century and are doing so without any net regional summer warming in the last 100 years."

Reprint this article in a newsletter, mail it to a friend or relative, or quote it in a letter to the editor of your local newspaper!

A shy mountain goat kid peeks from behind a rock in Glacier National Park. Photo: Stuart S. White / Zuma Press

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How "smart growth" hurts the poor and racial minorities

BY WENDELL COX AND RONALD D. UTT

America's commitment to providing home ownership opportunities for all confronts a serious challenge as more and more entry-level home buyers are priced out of the market by poorly conceived "smart growth" initiatives.

Those initiatives, which attempt to limit a community's growth and development through such regulations as growth boundaries, down zoning, impact fees, prohibitions, and set asides, have the effect of raising home prices and discouraging home ownership among low-income buyers. As a result, smart growth initiatives will reverse one of America's greatest public policy successes: the highest home ownership rate in our history.

Until World War II, fewer than half of all American families owned homes. But postwar prosperity pushed the home ownership rate to a record 55 percent in 1950, and above 60 percent by 1960. Since then, the U.S. home ownership rate has been inching its way up to a record 67.7 percent in late 2000.

Benefits of home ownership

Among its many benefits, home ownership offers households the opportunity to accumulate wealth. As monthly mortgage payments reduce the debt and as the value of the home rises, home owners generally experience an increase in the value of their equity—the difference between what the house is worth and what is owed on it.

"History could well show that shortly after ending red-lining, . . . cities began green-lining, through the imposition of growth areas, with virtually the same effect."

Counting the home and all other assets, the median net worth of the American home owner in 1998 was an impressive $132,100, compared to only $4,200 for the renters.

Home equity is particularly important for home owners of modest incomes. For home owners with incomes between $20,000 and $49,000, home equity accounts for between 40 and 45 percent of wealth . . . and as much as 65 percent for those with incomes below $20,000.

Smart growth threat

Postwar economic prosperity has played a major role in fostering higher rates of home ownership, but this achievement now confronts regulatory obstacles rising from the "smart growth" movement. Although smart growth strategies vary significantly from place to place, and from one advocate to another, at their core is the goal of preventing or slowing suburbanization by limiting the amount of land available for new construction.

Recognizing that a growing population needs a steady flow of new housing units each year, some smart growth advocates seek to save land by directing the needed new construction into higher-density developments, such as high rise apartments or town houses. Such developments use much less land than what most households would prefer—the ideal being a single family, detached house on a lot of an eighth to a quarter of an acre or more.

But some more extreme growth-control advocates want to discourage all growth, regardless of density, in order to preserve their neighborhoods exactly as they are. They support policies that discourage or severely limit any new construction.

Growth boundaries and zoning

Policies typically adopted by those wanting to guide growth into more compact forms usually involve a "growth boundary" and/or more rigid zoning requirements that define where growth can occur and where it cannot, and often mandate smaller lot sizes. By restricting the amount of land available for development, growth-guiding policies indirectly raise the price of homes by rationing the supply of land.

At the other extreme, policies designed to reduce or discourage growth generally raise home prices directly, through such techniques as requiring large lots, high fees, or costly amenities.

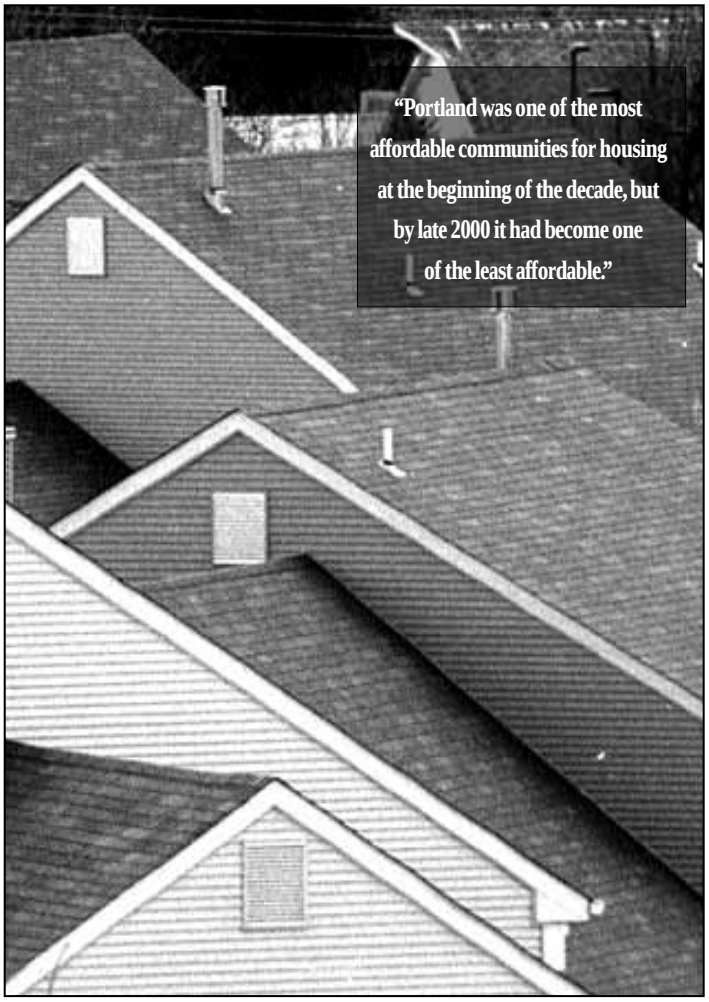
By raising home prices, smart growth policies force households of modest means into smaller units, or out of the community altogether. In either case, the burden is largely born by entry-level home buyers and other households with low to moderate incomes. To the extent that such policies become more commonplace in American communities, the rate of home ownership will likely fall as more and more moderate-income households are forced into the rental market.

Portland experience is telling

Portland, Oregon, for example, imposed a rigid growth boundary around its metropolitan area in 1979. When drawn, the boundary included substantial areas of undeveloped land, but by the early 1990s much of that land was built upon and the boundary imposed a significant constraint on land available for new construction.

Land costs soared, and by the mid 1990s home prices in Portland had surged ahead of the national average. Home ownership rates in Portland bucked national trends, falling during a period of time that saw the national home ownership rate rise to record levels.

As home price surveys conducted since 1991 reveal, Portland was one of the most affordable communities for housing at the beginning of the decade, but by late 2000 it had become one of the least affordable. Its affordability index plunged by 60 percent in roughly a decade. Indeed, while affordability nationwide increased, Portland's affordability index fell faster and farther than that in any other large metropolitan area.


"Portland was one of the most affordable communities for housing at the beginning of the decade, but by late 2000 it had become one of the least affordable."

Who suffers?

Most hurt by escalating home prices are those who are not yet home owners: Americans with household incomes below the median, and racial minorities. As of the third quarter of 2000, 81.7 percent of households with incomes at or above the median were home owners, whereas only 52.2 percent of those with incomes below the median owned homes. Because most smart growth strategies "work" by raising home prices, households with incomes below the median—

"[S]mart growth initiatives will reverse one of America's greatest public policy successes: the highest home ownership rate in our history."

already under-represented as home owners—will bear the brunt.

On average, minority households have lower incomes than white households. In 1999, the median income for black households was $27,910, and $30,735 for Hispanic households—compared to $42,504 for white households.

Minority households have quite a bit of catching up to do before they even come close to achieving home ownership parity with non-Hispanic white households. Although the overall home ownership rate in America reached a record 67.8 percent last year, this rate reflects an ownership rate of 74.3 percent among non-Hispanic whites, but only 46.8 percent for black Americans and 46.7 percent for Hispanics.

In recent years, Hispanic and African-American home ownership has been rising at approximately double the rate of non-Hispanic whites. Smart growth's higher housing prices will therefore fall hardest on Hispanic and African-American households.

The housing cost increases that accompany smart growth policies would relegate thousands of minority and other modest-income households to permanent renter status.

History could well show that shortly after ending red-lining, which suppressed minority home ownership rates, cities began green-lining, through the imposition of growth areas, with virtually the same effect. There is much more at stake here than urban planning.

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You're subsidizing "smart growth"!

EPA, Federal Highway Administration give millions to anti-growth groups

BY RANDAL O'TOOLE

The Environmental Protection Agency has given more than half a million dollars to smart-growth advocacy groups in 2001. This is on top of the $1.5 million it gave to smart-growth groups in 2000 and the $6 to $7 million it gave in the late 1990s.

"[Through the FHwA], New Jersey Transit received $535,000 to plan for 'transit-friendly communities.' . . . The Central Puget Sound Region (a regional government) received $400,000 to promote 'transit station communities.'"

Most of these groups use the funds to lobby for smart growth in their local areas, to "educate" the public about smart growth, or to hold conferences so that smart-growth advocates can meet and work on their political tactics and agendas. Some of these groups are associations of government officials whose staffs lobby in favor of smart growth.

The table accompanying this article identifies several 2001 grants I have identified as smart-growth grants.

The largest grant in 2000 was $774,300 to the Coalition for Utah's Future. Also in 2000, EPA gave $100,000 to Environmental Defense to promote "commuter choice" (mandatory reductions in driving), $200,000 to the Conservation Law Foundation to promote a rail network, and $346,000 to various other groups to promote smart growth in one way or another.

The above information was obtained from EPA's grant database (http://www.epa.gov/envirofw/html/gics/gics_query.html). Curiously, this database has been purged of any information about past grants given to the Surface Transportation Policy Project or certain other of EPA's former "transportation partners." It is difficult to know how many other grants are not in the database.

FHwA — Even more generous?

EPA grants may pale in comparison to those made by the Federal Highway Administration to government agencies and nonprofit groups under section 1221 of the Transportation Efficiency Act of 1998. This section is supposed to fund "Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Programs" (TCSP). Inspired by 1000 Friends of Oregon's "LUTRAQ" (Land Use, Transportation, Air Quality) studies, many though not all of the TCSP grants go for research or studies promoting smart growth.

According to the TCSP Web site (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/index.html), the program has given out more than $90 million since it began in 1999. The FHwA expects to give out another $30 million in the next two years.

Most or all of the grants go to a government agency, but the law specifically allowed the agency to "partner" with nonprofit groups. For example,

EPA Smart-Growth Grants

Recipient	Date	Amount	For
Local Gov't Commission	9/18/01	$10,000	smart growth conference
Alts for Communities & Env	8/22/01	20,000	
Grow Smart Rhode Island	8/13/01	20,000	brownfields education
1000 Friends of Penn	8/6/01	45,000	
Cong. For New Urbanism	8/3/01	35,000	
Gulf Coast Institute	7/11/01	35,000	smart growth for Houston
Vermont Forum on Sprawl	7/10/01	10,000	sprawl education
Earth Island Institute*	6/27/01	15,000	transportation workshops
Vermont Forum on Sprawl	6/21/01	25,000	smart growth
Nat Conf of State Legislatures	5/17/01	10,000	transportation conference
Center for Clean Air Policy	4/19/01	225,000	transport & the environment
Transportation Demand Mgt Inst	4/6/01	69,750	commuter choice
1000 Friends of Florida	3/9/01	50,000	
Environmental League of Mass	2/27/01	10,000	sustainable land use program
In addition, the following may be a smart-growth grant			
Assoc of State Hwy and Trans	8/29/01	30,000	

*Editor's note: please see page X for the Earth Island Institute's appalling statements after the September 11 terrorist attacks on America.

DEFENSE continued from page 1

where they can work just as efficiently and in far more security."

Even smart-growth advocate James Howard Kunstler has concluded "the age of the skyscrapers is at an end." As other smart-growth advocates point out, their vision of the future is low- to mid-rise mixed-use housing: Brooklyn, not lower Manhattan.

But even that may be too dense for comfort for many people. "The logic of decentralization has never been more clear," argues *San Jose Mercury* columnist Dan Gillmor. "Safety once resided in large numbers. In tomorrow's world, there will be more safety in spreading out."

That lesson should be clear to anyone who watched the horrifying video footage of the September 11 attacks. The World Trade Center compactly fit into just 16 acres, and the terrorists destroyed it and several nearby buildings with two airplanes. The Pentagon, which has about two-thirds of the office space of the WTC, sprawls across 583 acres. With one plane, the terrorists demolished only about 6 percent of that space.

(Incidentally, after adjusting for inflation the World Trade Center cost about three times as much to build per square foot of office space as did the Pentagon. So much for the "costs of sprawl.")

Like sprawl or not, many corporations and individuals will take the "don't bunch up" lesson to heart in the coming months and years. "Executives calculating where to house their employees are factoring in the need not to build something a suicide bomber might be tempted to knock down," writes Holman Jenkins Jr. in the *Wall Street Journal*. Many firms whose offices were in the trade center, Jenkins adds, are "rushing to sign leases on nondescript properties outside the city, on terms suggesting no plans to come back."

Future without skyscrapers?

Naturally, this has been a matter of major concern for New York City Mayor Giuliani from the very first. No doubt Chicago's Mayor Daley is similarly worried about the future of the Sears Tower, and San Francisco's Mayor Brown is worried about the Transamerica Tower.

Giuliani naturally wants to rebuild the trade center skyscrapers so as to keep businesses in his jurisdiction. New York Senators Clinton and Schumer have promised federal funds to do it. But such construction will be expensive . . . and unlikely to attract businesses that have learned the lessons of multiple attacks on the old trade center.

California sociologist J.F. Scott points out that the notion financial districts need towering skyscrapers to bring traders close enough together to do their work is refuted by Silicon Valley's financial district in Menlo Park, California. That district, observes Scott, "consists of low-rise buildings (none over 3 stories) with abundant parking."

Economist Paul Krugman frets whether the

Available on the Web

COMPILED BY RANDAL O'TOOLE

Many of the reports and essays cited in the accompanying article are available on the Internet.

- Eric Goldstein was quoted in the October 5 New York Times, http://www.nytimes.com/2001/10/05/nyregion/05SPRA.html
- Stephen Ambrose's oped in the October 1 Wall Street Journal is at http://www.opinionjournal.com/extra/?id=95001245
- Dan Gillmor's column in the September 23 San Jose Mercury News can be found at http://www0.mercurycenter.com/premium/business/docs/gillmor23.htm
- Holman Jenkins Jr.'s article was in the September 19 Wall Street Journal, http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/hjenkins/?id=95001173
- Paul Krugman's oped can be found in the October 3 issue of the New York Times at http://www.nytimes.com/2001/10/03/opinion/03KRUG.html
- An analysis by the Reason Foundation's Sam Staley of the effects of the attack on New York can be found at http://www.rppi.org/wtc/100501staley.html

Other views . . .

- New Urbanists, "Smart Growth Is Still Smart," http://www.newcolonist.com/smartgrowth.html
- Thomas Bray, "Let Freedom Sprawl," http://www.opinionjournal.com/columnists/tbray/?id=95001150
- Business Week, "The Future of the City," http://www.businessweek.com/magazine/content/01_40/b3751726.htm
- Leonard Gilroy, "Our Relationship with the Built Environment," http://www.rppi.org/opeds/092801.html
- Washington Post, "N.Y. Weighs Its 'Bittersweet Opportunity,'" http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A17789-2001Oct6.html

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New Jersey Transit received $535,000 to plan for "transit-friendly communities."

The grant proposal specifically states that NJT will share the money with other groups "to leverage the talents and resources of its nonprofit and government partners leaders in smart growth, community and downtown revitalization, regional planning, and public education." Four nonprofits are specifically mentioned: Downtown New Jersey, New Jersey Future, the Project for Public Spaces, and the Regional Planning Association.

See http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/projects/public_search_detail.cfm?award=535000&state=NJ&project_id=276 for more about this grant.

"In 2000, EPA gave $100,000 to Environmental Defense to promote "commuter choice" (mandatory reductions in driving), . . . and $346,000 to various other groups to promote smart growth in one way or another."

The Central Puget Sound Region (a regional government) received $400,000 to promote "transit station communities." The grant says the funds will be shared with 1000 Friends of Washington, which will do "public education," including "community forums and radio ads." Other "partners" include the Transportation Choices Coalition, Washington Environmental Council, Livable Communities Coalition, Bicycle Alliance of Washington, and Sustainable Seattle.

For more about this grant, see http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/projects/public_search_detail.cfm?award=400000&state=WA&project_id=292.

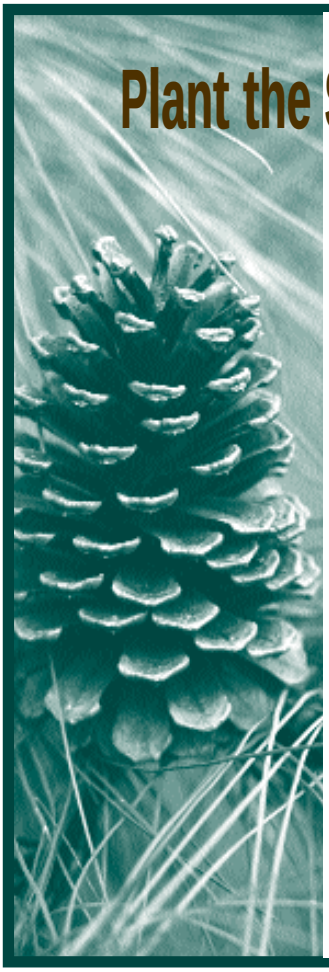
Unfortunately, the TCSP Web site does not yet provide detailed information about most of these grants. The grants page on the site (http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/projects/Searchdb.cfm?function=public) includes a $600,000 grant given to the Lane Council of Governments in Oregon. This money helped pay for a smart-growth newspaper insert sent to 450,000 households in Oregon (see http://www.ti.org/vaupdate10.html). The Willamette Valley Livability Project, created by 1000 Friends of Oregon, wrote the insert, while the Lane Council of Governments helped only with the layout (so the insert says).

But the TCSP grants page does not mention the Willamette Valley Livability Project or other partners. The Web page promises to eventually fill in the blanks for many of these projects.

However, it appears many TCSP grants are used by government agencies to develop smart-growth proposals. These agencies share the money with nonprofits so the nonprofits can engage in public lobbying for those proposals. This subverts the laws in many states that forbid government agencies from lobbying.

Anyone familiar with the details of a particular TCSP grant is invited to share them with me. As appropriate, I will pass them on to others interested in smart-growth issues.

Randal O'Toole (rot@ti.org) is senior economist with the Thoreau Institute (www.ti.org) and author of the recent book, The Vanishing Automobile and Other Urban Myths.



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September 11 attack will "permanently damage New York's position as America's economic capital." While, he says, "this is a real question and deserves a serious answer," it is in fact a question of concern only to Manhattan property owners and the City of New York. The rest of America doesn't care whether our economic capital is in New York, Menlo Park, or somewhere in cyberspace (which is probably the safest place for it).

"If Giuliani really wanted to help Manhattan, he would encourage developers to include huge parking garages in any buildings replacing the ones demolished on September 11."

Contrary to those who think of the World Trade Center as a symbol of free enterprise, it was actually built by the Port Authority of New York to aggrandize the city and stem the tide of businesses spreading to suburban and other locations. The idea for the center was originally promoted by banker David Rockefeller and supported by his brother, Nelson Rockefeller, when he was New York governor.

The trade center towers were a financial failure for their first two decades, requiring subsidies from users of airports, bridges, and other Port Authority facilities. During the recent economic boom, the Port Authority managed to convince a developer, Larry Silverstein, to lease the center for 99 years.

Silverstein says he wants to rebuild the center, but in the form of four 50- to 60-story buildings instead of two 110-story structures. Shorter buildings would make less of a target, but might not be small enough to discourage companies from migrating to lower-density areas.

Trending toward low density

The very reason terrorism is so difficult to combat is that terrorists absolutely refuse to bunch up. Though Americans may want to defy the terrorists, the notion that we should all subsidize New York's position as America's economic capital, effectively bunching ourselves up, is absurd.

Without trying to put more spin on the situation, it is possible to predict some likely trends.

First, companies and individuals will slightly accelerate their move to lower density areas. Of course, the trend to the suburbs is more than a century old. Since 1920, Manhattan's population has fallen from more than 2.5 million people to just 1.5 million today.

Mayor Giuliani's recent order prohibiting single-occupant autos in Manhattan during certain hours won't help, since in the long run those who want to drive such vehicles will simply go somewhere else. If Giuliani really wanted to help Manhattan, he would encourage developers to include huge parking garages in any buildings replacing the ones demolished on September 11.

"The rest of America doesn't care whether our economic capital is in New York, Menlo Park, or somewhere in cyberspace (which is probably the safest place for it)."

Second, the terror will make it more difficult for sprawl opponents to argue that people should bunch up in compact cities. While the provincial *New York Times* gave NRDC's claims lots of print space, Ambrose's op ed in the *Wall Street Journal* will have a greater long-term impact because Ambrose is a popular writer not identified as pro- or anti-sprawl.

Third, if heightened security measures increase the costs or, especially, the time required to fly, people are going to do a lot more intercity driving. Air service will especially lose market share to the auto for trips of 250 miles or less.

Fourth, Amtrak will probably use the increased demand for its services to convince Congress to bail it out for another few years. But unless there are further hijackings, rail will not gain a significant share over air or auto in any market. Amtrak carries an insignificant share of intercity passenger miles in any case—less than a quarter of a percent in 1998. Passenger trains are pretty, but outside of the northeast corridor they're not much of a salvation for U.S. transportation woes.

Fifth, local pride, the desire to maintain economic supremacy, and billions in federal aid will lead New York to disregard economic and security questions and rebuild new skyscrapers to replace the World Trade Center. Whether they will be 110 stories tall is still open to question, but they will no doubt stand out on the New York skyline.

Finally, smart-growth advocates will continue to twist the facts to make their crazy ideas appear reasonable.

Randal O'Toole is senior economist with the Thoreau Institute and author of The Vanishing Automobile and Other Urban Myths. *He can be reached by email at rot@ti.org, or visit the Thoreau Institute's Web site at www.ti.org.*

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Radical environmentalists side with terrorists following September 11 attacks

The statements and actions of the radical environmentalists in the wake of the September 11 attacks speak volumes about the ideology and loyalties of the radical green movement.

BY JAMES M. TAYLOR

The terrorist attacks on America have awakened the nation to a previously unthinkable assault on our freedoms and our way of life. However, as much as the nation has united behind a determination to root out terrorism, terrorism has found a bastion of indifference, support, and even downright accomplice in domestic radical environmentalist groups.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks against America, many of these groups have failed to denounce the terror, and have instead blamed America itself for the death of thousands of its citizens.

The Earth Island Institute, a federal funding recipient(!) that has found favor with the mainstream media as a result of its self-publicized efforts to return Keiko the killer whale (star of the movie *Free Willy*) to the sea, responded to the terrorist attacks with an editorial titled "U.S. Responds to Terrorist Attacks with Self-Righteous Arrogance."

Gar Smith, editor of *Earth Island Journal* and author of the editorial, stated America brought the attacks upon itself by rejecting so-called environmentally friendly energy in favor of oil.

America's proper response to the attacks, argued Smith, would be to severely ratchet up the price of oil for American consumers and for "the United States to give up its position as the world's reigning Superpower."

Added Smith, "If towns, factories, and homes could be powered by solar and geothermal energy, no one country could dominate the world's energy-based economies. It is time to move to a world beyond oil, beyond repression, and beyond superpowers." Any military response, asserted Smith, would be "illogical" and "self-righteous arrogance."

Protect yourself

Intent on ensuring that Gar Smith and the Earth Island Institute's response to the September 11 terrorist attacks was not dismissed as a mere aberration, Green Party USA added an equally callous analysis of the events. America should respond to the attacks, suggested Green Party USA, by letting "U.S. corporations, so busy using up Earth's resources and beggaring Earth's life forms, protect themselves."

Greenpeace International also rejected America's right to respond with force. "Violence only begets violence," the group lectured in a written statement.

The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals exposed its lack of concern for human casualties. The group criticized rescue and cleanup crews—considered by many Americans to be national heroes—for focusing primarily on humans and turning away "animal guardians" seeking out orphaned animals in the World Trade Center complex.

Eco-terrorism at home

Even as Americans came to realize the very real threat international terrorism poses to themselves and future American generations, the domestic Earth Liberation Front (ELF) was crowing about its own recent terrorist acts.

The "environmentalist" group has taken credit for over 30 terrorist attacks in the past six years, with the number of attacks per year growing at an alarming rate. After committing "only" two terrorist attacks in 1996, ELF has upped the ante each year, committing at least nine terrorist attacks in 2000 and another seven between January 1 and September 11, 2001.

"[ELF] has taken credit for over 30 terrorist attacks in the past six years, with the number of attacks per year growing at an alarming rate."

On September 8, just three days before the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks, ELF terrorists burned to the ground a McDonald's restaurant in Tucson, Arizona, and then vandalized the wreckage with "ELF" and "ALF" (Animal Liberation Front) graffiti.

Even more appallingly, on September 18, just days after the horrible events of September 11, Tucson police were called to the scene of a Ronald McDonald House for seriously ill children, which had been vandalized and covered with "ELF," "ALF," swastikas, and anti-fast food graffiti.

"America, and indeed human life itself, counts for little in the anti-human, anti-freedom agenda of the radical environmentalist movement."

Ronald McDonald House spokesperson Denisa Casement reports she now fears for the safety of families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses nationwide. Such fears are particularly stinging in that the terrorism targets unfortunate families whose children are undergoing treatment for life-threatening diseases.

Not only does ELF take credit for dozens of acts of terrorism over recent years, but even in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks the group openly encourages and instructs other persons and groups contemplating acts of domestic terrorism.

The ELF Web site opens with a full-color photograph of one of its arson attacks and, in large-print text, the words "Every night is Earth night." The site also offers a how-to terrorist guide titled "Setting Fires With Electrical Timers—An Earth Liberation Front Guide." The guide provides "the politics and practicalities of arson. Down-to-earth advice and how-tos about devices, fuel requirements, timers, security, and more."

The ELF Web site also offers "If an Agent Knocks," a publication directing its terrorists how to frustrate and evade FBI counter-terrorism agents.

Against capitalism and industry

The statements and actions of the radical environmentalists in the wake of the September 11 attacks speak volumes about the ideology and loyalties of the radical green movement.

America, and indeed human life itself, counts for little in the anti-human, anti-freedom agenda of the radical environmentalist movement. ELF justifies its terrorist acts this way:

"The ELF realizes the profit motive caused and reinforced by the capitalist society is destroying all life on this planet. . . . This year, 2001, we hope to see an escalation in tactics against capitalism and industry."

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Let's also battle home-grown terrorists

BY NICK NICHOLS

As America goes to war against terrorism in the wake of the savage attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, we must recognize the need to battle all terrorists who threaten our nation—not just foreign-born Islamic radicals who hate America's Middle East policies.

Many of today's terrorists were born in the USA. Yet, they openly detest our nation's businesses, our free enterprise system, our environmental policies, our use of animals for food and medical research, our judicial system, and many other things about the country most of us cherish.

Every day, often unchallenged, these home-grown extremists are waging war against our economy and our freedom. They use arson and other weapons to destroy private and public property, exploiting concerns about the environment, animal rights, and "globalization" to justify their criminal behavior.

While in no way does their toll compare to the senseless human carnage achieved by the terrorists who struck September 11, make no mistake these domestic zealots are engaged in their own holy war and believe their goals are so noble they justify violence.

Taking credit for terror

Consider that on the very same day the World Trade Center and Pentagon were attacked, the Animal Liberation Front took credit for torching a McDonald's restaurant in Tucson, Arizona. According to the "communique" sent by activists and disclosed by the *Arizona Daily Star*, animal rights was not the only reason for burning down the restaurant.

"This action is meant to serve as a warning to corporations worldwide: You will never be safe from the people you oppress," the activists wrote. "Globalization is nothing more than the government-sanctioned rape and murder of the Earth's resources, and we, the people, will never stand for it."

What about the peaceful protests that are part of America's tradition, and protected by our Bill of Rights? For terrorists, non-violence is a sign of weakness. Since they believe themselves to be the embodiment of absolute virtue, they feel free to use absolutely any action to achieve their goals.

Terrorists will never admit to being terrorists. The mass murderers who killed thousands in the attacks on New York City and the Washington area considered themselves freedom fighters and men of God. In the same way, environmental, animal rights, and anti-globalization fanatics who engage in violent action consider themselves guiltless defenders of our planet and all its creatures.

It's not just property at risk

Thankfully, no previous act of terrorism in American history even comes close to the terrible toll of death and destruction caused by the suicidal hijackers who flew airliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

However, too often, we tolerate the smaller acts of violence committed by our American-born terrorists as "stunts" or "pranks" because, so far, damage has been largely limited to property.

But as FBI spokeswoman Beth Anne Steele warned last summer in an interview with the New York Times, "Sooner or later, one of these events is going to happen where somebody gets hurt."

There have been numerous instances of terrorism around the country in the past few years. For example:

- Amimal rights terrorists have "liberated" thousands of animals from fur farms and medical research labs. Most of the animals released have wound up as road kill or have died of starvation. Medical research designed to find life-saving cures to AIDS, cancer, and other deadly diseases has been set back, and people are likely to die as a result.
- The Earth Liberation Front claims credit for arson attacks that have caused millions of dollars' worth of destruction in the past four years. These include a $12 million arson at a ski resort in Colorado, a $1 million arson at a lumber company in Oregon, and the burning of luxury homes, sport utility vehicles, and logging trucks in several states. The group posted a primer on arson on its Web site that included helpful tips on starting fires with timers, and the admonition that "the objective of every action should be assured destruction."
- When two teenagers on Long Island, New York, pleaded guilty to arson conspiracy in February in connection with a rash of fires set to burn newly built homes and construction equipment, arsonist Matthew T. Rammelkamp told a judge he was a member of ELF. The 16-year-old added: "I obtained and received information from the ELF Web site and used that information in furtherance of that conspiracy."
- In an unsuccessful effort to spark an explosion, eco-terrorists who attacked a car dealership in Eugene, Oregon set up jugs of camp fuel and gasoline around a fuel truck belonging to an oil company. Arsonists later destroyed 30 sport utility vehicles in a blaze at the dealership.
- More recently, ELF terrorists destroyed the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and the Clatskanie tree farm in Oregon. These two simultaneous terror attacks caused over $5 million in property damage and incalculable millions in lost research.

"[T]oo often, we tolerate the smaller acts of violence committed by our American-born terrorists . . . because, so far, damage has been largely limited to property."

It's time we paid attention

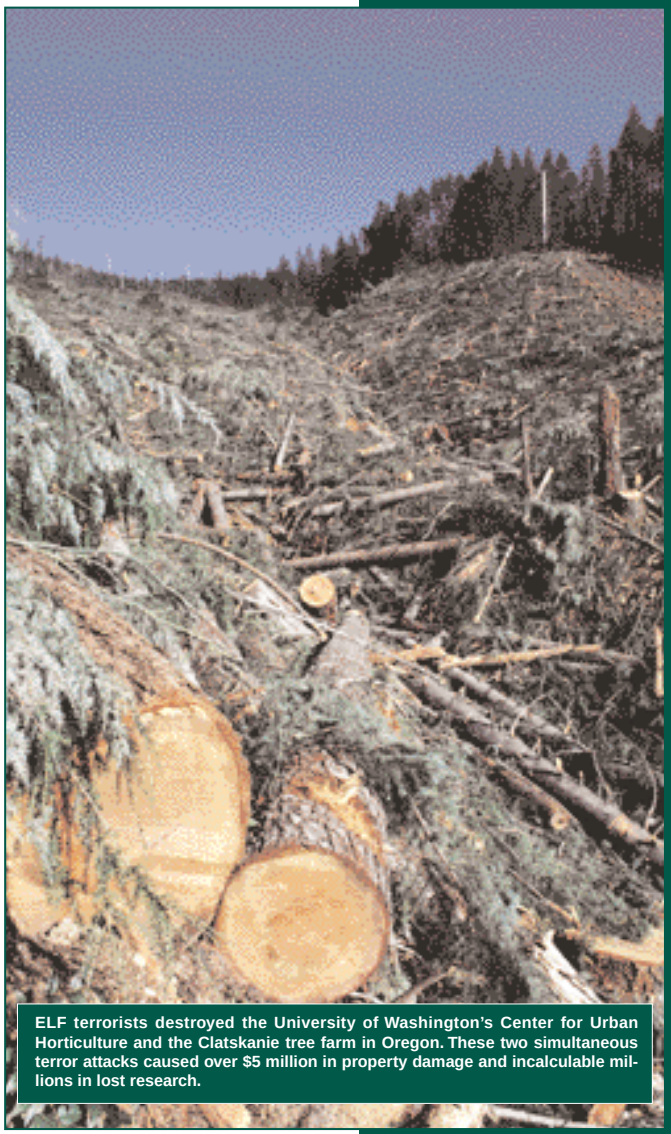
Once a group decides that violence is justified—whether to protest logging, animal research, or a Western presence in the Middle East—the danger that attacks on trucks will become attacks with truck bombs is too big to ignore.

For too many years, the United States failed to devote the necessary attention and dedicate the necessary resources to fighting terrorism originating abroad. We shouldn't make the same mistake when fighting the home-grown variety now worsening in our country.

If we're serious about stopping the attackers, we need to crack down hard with more aggressive investigations and tougher action against all terrorist threats against our nation. We can't afford to let our inaction give American terrorists the green light today to escalate their terror tactics to horrifying proportions tomorrow.

Nick Nichols is chairman of Nichols-Dezenhall, a crisis management firm in Washington, DC. He is the author of a new book, Rules for Corporate Warriors: How to Fight and Survive Attack Group Shakedowns, *published by The Free Enterprise Press. The book provides details about the escalation of home-grown terrorist attacks within the United States. It is available in hard cover for $25 at Amazon.com; point your Web browser to http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0939571218/theheartlandinst.*

"For terrorists, non-violence is a sign of weakness. Since they believe themselves to be the embodiment of absolute virtue, they feel free to use absolutely any action to achieve their goals."



ELF terrorists destroyed the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and the Clatskanie tree farm in Oregon. These two simultaneous terror attacks caused over $5 million in property damage and incalculable millions in lost research.

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Defending and rebuilding America requires resources

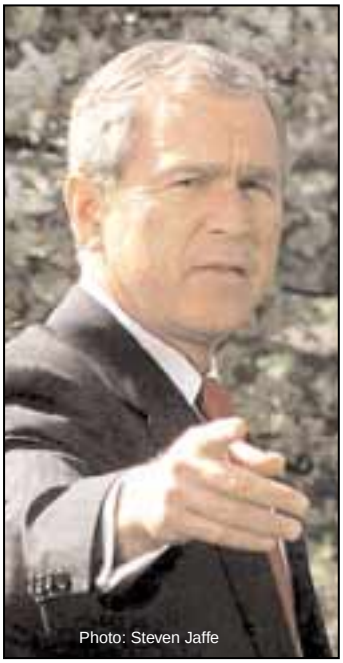


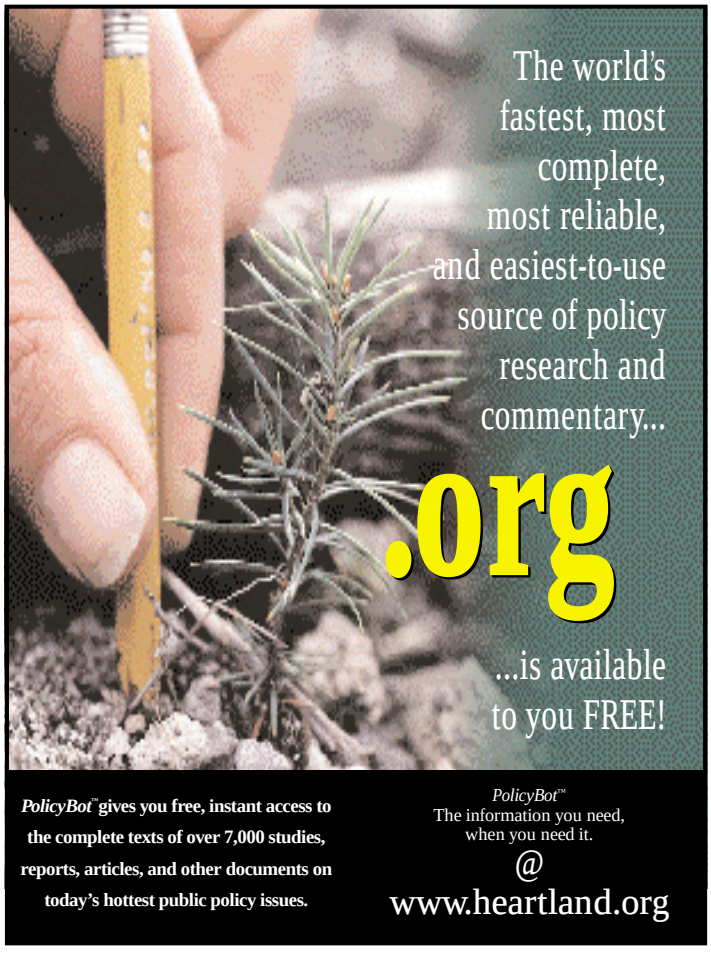
Photo: Steven Jaffe

BY PAUL K. DRIESSEN

In horrific moments etched forever in our memories, Islamic radicals murdered 6,500 innocent people—including more Americans than died at Antietam, previously the bloodiest single day in our nation's history. They also devastated the heart of Manhattan's financial district and part of our military command center—sending shock waves through America's economy, infrastructure, and tranquility.

Within 10 days of the September 11 attack, the Dow Jones industrial average plummeted 1400 points, the Nasdaq composite index lost another 300 points, and Americans' net worth plunged by more than $1 trillion. Though the market has clawed its way upward since then, many sectors remain severely battered.

The airline industry is expected to lose nearly $7 billion for the year; falling tax revenues will affect numerous government programs; and layoff announcements and anemic or negative GDP growth rates raise the specter of another recession. Indeed, many analysts say the question is not whether there will be a recession—but how long and painful it will be, how much wealth and income will disappear, and how many jobs will be lost.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The terrorists' crime against humanity has left America bloodied, but unbowed, angry and united. It has brought out the best in our people, our Congress, and our President—ending our innocence perhaps, but awakening a sleeping giant and steeling our resolve. "Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies," President Bush promised, "justice will be done."

"If we are to defend and rebuild America, we must have petroleum—and metals, timber, coal, and nuclear energy, and a modernized energy distribution system."

Policies and priorities

The human and physical devastation has led to a long-overdue reassessment of the many ways politicians, bureaucrats, social activists, spies, loose lips, and simple lethargy weakened and compromised our intelligence and law enforcement capabilities, immigration safeguards, airport security, and military readiness. These lapses have already resulted in unspeakable carnage. But we are finally taking steps to cure the defects and prevent further terrorism.

The economic devastation has made clear the need for an immediate economic stimulus package. Many say it should include a capital gains tax cut, immediate implementation of the 10-year tax cut plan enacted earlier this year, and a new law allowing companies to "expense" equipment in the year it was purchased.

However, a vitally important question remains unanswered. Will we also undertake a long-overdue reassessment of our nation's energy, environment, and regulatory policies?

Regulations alone impose a massive hidden tax of over $800 billion a year, often for little economic, environmental, or workplace safety benefits. A luxury we can ill afford in the best of times, today they are a cement life preserver for a drowning man. We need a tax cut here, as well.

We are at war. The battlefields are not halfway around the globe, but right here in the United States, and the innocent victims are our own families, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. For the first time since the War of 1812, we ourselves are under attack.

Energy realities and mythologies

Winning the new war against terrorism will require a long, arduous campaign—one that will be infinitely more difficult if America's economy, infrastructure, and people cannot sustain the effort. *This* is the reality in which we must now reexamine our energy policies. Not in the America that existed before September 11, not in some academic ivory tower, and certainly not in the PC world of environmental politics. Defending and rebuilding requires resources.

Secure supplies of affordable energy are the backbone of our economy. Rebuilding our economy and climbing out of the looming recession will require vast amounts of energy. Waging a protracted air and special forces campaign on multiple fronts half a world away will require still more.

The Persian Gulf War required 450,000 barrels of oil every day—four times what Allied soldiers needed to liberate Europe from the Nazis in World War II—and the Department of Defense accounts for 80 percent of all the energy the entire federal government uses, 75 percent of it in the form of jet fuel.

Today, we import 57 percent of our oil, compared to 35 percent when the 1973 Arab oil embargo crippled our economy. Even worse, a quarter of all the oil we use comes from the Middle East, and 850,000 barrels a day come from Iraq! Unless we expand our domestic production, by 2010 the petroleum to power our economy and military will be over 60 percent foreign, over 33 percent Middle Eastern, and more than a million barrels Iraqi. The impact on our economy, national security, and foreign policy will be incalculable.

Much of what we spend on imported oil ends up in countries that support or condone terrorism. Some even bankrolls terrorist operations. Jobs that could go to American workers go overseas instead, along with billions in tax revenues and invaluable technology and expertise. Our options for ending the terror are too easily influenced by our reliance on foreign oil, and terrorist attacks could too easily disrupt our international supply lines.

Singing out of tune

And still we hear the same tiresome chorus from the environmental elites and anti-energy members of Congress.

"*There is little oil left in America.*" Hogwash.

Government geologists say the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could hold between 6 and 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil. Federal lands off our coasts could contain an additional 64 to 88 billion barrels, the Rocky Mountains and other onshore regions many billions more.

That's 250 to 375 years' worth of imports from Saddam Hussein. Turned into gasoline, it would power California's cars and trucks for 200 to 325 years.

But the vast majority of these resources are *off limits*, due to unbending pressure from environmental extremists. The public's right to know what's there, and our right to find and produce it, continue to get brushed aside to satisfy specious claims about environmental risks or alternative technologies.

"*Drilling will destroy the environment.*" Baloney.

ANWR is the size of South Carolina: 19 million acres. Of all that land, only 2,000 acres along the flat, featureless "coastal plain" would actually be disturbed by drilling. That's 5 percent of Washington, DC . . . 20 of the buildings Boeing uses to manufacture its 747 jets . . . less land than the terrorists devastated in New York City. And the drilling would be done in the dead of winter, using directional drilling technology, from ice pads that would melt in the spring.

Since 1980, platforms off the California coast have produced over 700 million barrels of oil, while spilling only 750 barrels. During this same period, *natural* seepage out of cracks in the ocean floor discharged more than 1 million barrels into California coastal waters.

"*Greater energy efficiency eliminates the need to drill.*" Malarkey.

BATTLE continued on next page

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Greens undermine America's military

Hundreds of government employees are little more than covert agents for the environmental movement

BY ALAN CARUBA

"Endangered species has power to halt war training" was the headline on an article in an October 2000 edition of the *Washington Times*. Written by Steve Miller and datelined Fort Irwin, California, the article began, "What may be one of the most formidable threats to national security today has a craggy face, scaly arms and, well, he likes a little grass now and then." Miller was referring to the desert tortoise.

Soldiers at the Army training center's battlefield were instructed to call a commander if a desert tortoise crawled out of a hole. At that point, the entire training exercise would stop. Such insanity has been repeated on every military base in the nation in one fashion or another.

Whose security top priority?

When asked about the need for national security, a spokesman for the Bureau of Land Management was quoted in the article as saying, "It is not in our purview to make a determination related to national security. Ours is to make sure the Endangered Species Act is complied with."

There are hundreds of government employees throughout its many agencies who are little more than covert agents for the environmental movement. Their concern is not for national security, but for the security of an endangered species or some other environmental mandate.

And then there's Rep. Bob Filner, Democrat from the 50th District of California, the San Diego area, now in his fifth term. This is a district in which you will find a large contingent of U.S. Navy ships, part of our Pacific Fleet. You will also find there the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center and Naval Air Force.

In June, Filner introduced the "Military Environmental Responsibility Act" (H.R. 2154), which seeks to remove all military exemptions from existing environmental, worker, and public safety laws and regulations.

Stealth attack by environmentalists

The national and international environmental movement—the Greens—has been engaged in undermining the U.S. military for years. Few have taken notice of it.

One of the most egregious examples has been the campaign to force the U.S. military to switch from lead-based ammunition to tungsten. This "Green ammo" was said to be necessary because of the "environmental threat" of lead bullets and other shells. The bullets fired from standard-issue M-16 rifles have always been made of lead, as was virtually every other bullet ever fired by our military going back to the days of the American Revolution.

The Green mandate for tungsten bullets ignored the fact that this metal costs vastly more than lead, easily twice as much. It also ignored the fact that the greatest source of this metal is China.

The Green attack on our military includes a propaganda campaign, as does all environmentalism. One example is "America's Defense Monitor" (ADM), a weekly television series produced by the Center for Defense Information and broadcast on an estimated 65 Public Broadcasting System outlets and cable stations. If you visit the center's Web site (www.cdi.org), you can order videos of anti-nuclear programs such as "Radioactive America," "The Military-Industrial Squeeze," and "Dark Cloud: Our Strange Love Affair with the Bomb."

Two United States Air Forces Europe F-16C's fly in formation during a mission. Photo: Greg L. Davis

"The national and international environmental movement—the Greens—has been engaged in undermining the U.S. military for years."

One ADM program is entitled "An Environmental Industrial Complex?" This program argues against ballistic missile systems, fighter planes, and new submarines, suggesting that spending the money on solving environmental problems would be better. All of their programs are intended to convince viewers way too much money is being spent on our military.

Shortly after the September 11 attacks, the Earth Island Institute pulled from its Web site an editorial that cited U.S. energy and environmental policy as the reason for the attacks. "If we were to redirect our economy to operate on clean renewable energy … we would not only be on the path to mitigating climate change, we would also be on the path to eliminating one of the major causes of terrorism," wrote Gar Smith. "One way to respond to terrorists is to listen to the message they are trying to send."

Of course it makes sense to ensure we have clean air and clean water, and restrict unnecessary emissions and the wastes generated by a modern society. But it doesn't make sense to run that society like a totalitarian government. And this is the essential evil of radical environmentalism.

Alan Caruba is a veteran business and science writer, and founder of the National Anxiety Center (http://www.anxietycenter.com)— "a response to all the 'Earth is Doomed!' stories in the media."

BATTLE continued from previous page

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) claims higher fuel efficiency standards for cars and SUVs could save as much oil as we might get from ANWR. Yes, we need to conserve. But we also need to drill, or U.S. oil production will continue its freefall, and our dependency on imports will grow.

More importantly, existing mileage standards have already resulted in smaller, lighter, less-safe cars that have cost the lives of some 40,000 Americans, according to *USA Today*. Tighter standards would mean more lost lives.

"*Renewable fuels can eliminate the need for imported oil.*" Absurd.

Wind, solar, and geothermal energy serve less than 2 percent of our energy needs—and that's after taxpayers spent $20 billion in subsidies to boost their use. Replacing our petroleum-based economy with renewables would cost trillions of dollars, and the environmental costs would likewise be staggering.

Geothermal means power plants in areas like Yellowstone National Park. Using wind or solar power to produce just the *additional* electricity America will need by 2010 would require blanketing an area the size of Connecticut, Delaware, and Massachusetts combined with windmills or photovoltaic panels. Those gigantic windmills are notorious bird killers, and nothing can live under the solar panels. Plus, we'd still need new coal, gas, and nuclear plants to generate power when there's no wind or sunlight.

"*We should not develop America's oil until we have an emergency.*" Say *what*?

Osama bin Laden & Company just sent us a wakeup call from Hell. If their terrorist assault and the devastation it caused are not an emergency, pray tell, what *is*?

"Rebuilding our economy and climbing out of the looming recession will require vast amounts of energy. Waging a protracted air and special forces campaign on multiple fronts half a world away will require still more."

Confronting our implacable foes

As did our parents before us, this generation has a rendezvous with destiny. Once again, we face an enemy that would destroy our nation and way of life. We must root them out and defeat them, before they can unleash more horrors upon us.

Unlike previous generations, however, we must also confront pernicious foes here in our homeland. If we are to defend and rebuild America, we *must* have petroleum—and metals, timber, coal, and nuclear energy, and a modernized energy distribution system.

The anti-development arguments have been ludicrous for two decades and more. To let them dictate our response to the unprecedented threats before us is to court disaster. It is time to confront them, and relegate them to the ash heap of history, to join the murderous zealots who seek to inflict their *jihad* upon us.

Paul Driessen has written extensively on climate change and other energy and environment issues for 25 years. He manages his own public relations and public policy firm (www.Global-CommPartners.net).

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many of the tax provisions is that the government knows, better than do individuals acting through free markets, what to produce and consume.

Steering consumer behavior

The energy bill's attempts to influence behavior are most evident in provisions concerning energy conservation and alternative fuels. For example, the bill proposes a 15 percent tax credit for certain residential solar energy expenditures; a 10 percent tax credit for qualified investments in clean-coal facilities with an additional tax credit for production from those facilities; a 10 percent tax credit for certain stationary fuel-cell power plants; and an extension and expansion of tax credits for alternative-fuel vehicles. These provisions are politically popular and have received little criticism.

One of the few such items to raise eyebrows is a proposed credit to washing machine and refrigerator manufacturers for selling energy-efficient machines. The federal government, with the approval of these manufacturers, recently mandated appliance standards that will reduce energy use but sharply raise prices for washing machine and refrigerator buyers. The credit would offset some of the additional cost, preventing the drop in appliance sales caused by the government mandate from being as great as it otherwise would be.

Notwithstanding the political appeal of "green" tax credits and other incentives, a key economic principle should be kept in mind: People acting through voluntary exchanges in response to undistorted free-market price signals usually make better production and consumption decisions than does the government.

One reason is that individuals participating in free markets have greater and more timely information than do government leaders and bureaucrats, because markets continuously reveal through relative prices which products are most desired, how best to produce them, and what they really cost in terms of scarce resources.

"By artificially raising energy prices with taxes, the government already forces more conservation than the real-world availability of energy warrants."

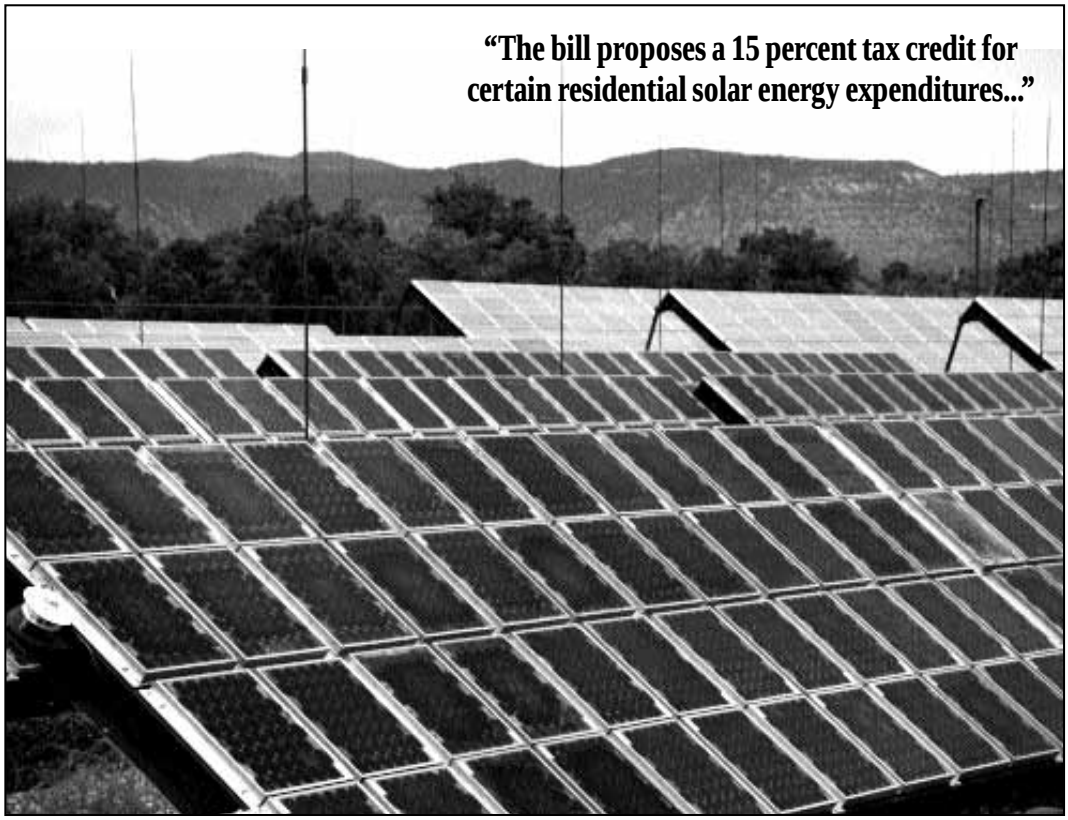
Another reason is that individuals acting through free markets have better incentives: Their own money, and their own personal well-being, is on the line when they make production and consumption decisions. When those in government tell others what to do, the decisions are more apt to be colored by political and bureaucratic considerations.

Micromanagement too often fails

It is not surprising that government efforts at micromanagement often fail. We need look no further than the energy arena itself to find examples of that failure:

- the gas lines of the 1970s, caused when the government misallocated gasoline supplies so that some parts of the country had too much gasoline while other areas suffered government-created shortages;
- the Carter administration's Synfuels boondoggle;
- and this year's energy fiasco in California, caused by an ill-conceived and misnamed "deregulation" program the State of California imposed on the electric utility industry.

It is true that carrots offered by the tax system tend to cause less harm than command-and-control mandates and quotas. Nevertheless, tax incentives are likely to do more harm than good if they are based on exaggerated external costs, if they overestimate the benefits of the actions they try to promote, or if they are poorly designed to bring about the intended results.



Economics of resource decisions

People use resources as long as the benefit of an extra unit of the resource covers the cost of that unit. They stop using more of a resource when another unit would add more to costs than to benefits.

People's decisions about wise resource use include evaluating whether to spend more upfront on energy-efficient housing, cars, and appliances to save on future energy use. There is an optimal level of conservation, given the prices of the resources.

For example, better insulation will make a home more energy efficient. But insulation materials themselves have resource costs: Their production requires energy, various non-energy natural resources, and the resources of labor and capital. Given that insulation entails both costs and savings, it is sensible to insulate a home well . . . but it is not sensible to add insulation without limit. Past a certain point, further insulation would use up resources with a greater value than the energy saved, and consumer well-being would fall.

By artificially raising energy prices with taxes, the government already forces more conservation than the real-world availability of energy warrants. Additional steps in this direction would induce us wastefully (in terms of total resources) to curtail further our use of energy; we would be giving up more than $1 of other resources and consumer satisfaction to save $1 of energy resources.

For more information...

For a more complete discussion of the informational difficulties and incentive problems that beset government planners, see Roy E. Cordato, "Global Warming, Kyoto, and Tradeable Emissions Permits: The Myth of Efficient Central Planning," Studies in Social Cost, Regulation, and the Environment, No. 1, Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation, September 1999; and Roy E. Cordato, "The Polluter Pays Principle: A Proper Guide for Environmental Policy," Studies in Social Cost, Regulation, and the Environment, No. 6, Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation, April 2001.

Easing tax biases

To its credit, the Bush administration recognizes the federal government has created many barriers to adequate and efficient energy production, and it has included several major non-tax provisions in its energy plan to lower those barriers.

Also on the plus side, while many of H.R. 4's tax provisions would be subsidies, many others would move in the direction of tax neutrality: They would provide modest relief from existing tax biases against saving and investment, especially investment in energy production. That has the potential to enhance market efficiency and bolster growth.

Provisions that ease tax biases are not tax favors. The only complaint against the pro-neutrality tax provisions in H.R. 4 is that they should be applied more widely; ideally, such provisions would be extended to savers and investors throughout the economy.

Among H.R. 4's anti-tax-bias provisions are those that would improve the tax treatment of investment by shortening depreciation schedules. Ideally, businesses should be allowed to deduct investment costs when they incur those costs. (Being able to deduct costs in the period when they occur is known as expensing.) The tax code usually allows labor costs to be expensed, but delays the write-off of most investment costs through the use of depreciation schedules.

As a result, businesses' tax deductions based on depreciation generally understate actual investment costs in present-value terms, because depreciation makes no allowance for the time value of money and inflation. In response to that tax distortion, businesses underinvest and productivity suffers.

H.R. 4's improvements in this area include treating natural gas gathering pipelines as seven-year property, gas distribution pipelines

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ENERGY continued from previous page

as 10-year property, and petroleum refining property as seven-year property, instead of the longer depreciation lives in current law, and permitting the expensing of certain energy-efficient commercial building property and certain geological and geophysical expenditures.

"On the positive side, all the bill's tax provisions would cut taxes. On the negative side, a theme running through many of the tax provisions is that the government knows, better than do individuals acting through free markets, what to produce and consume."

AMT, capital gains relief

The bill also contains limited relief from the alternative minimum tax (AMT). The AMT is complex, inconsistent with the regular income tax, and arbitrary. Further, the AMT on businesses has the perverse tendency to hit companies going through financial difficulties, as well as businesses that invest heavily.

Ideally, the AMT should be abolished. Several provisions in H.R. 4 would take small steps in that direction by ensuring that nonbusiness energy credits, business energy credits, the enhanced oil recovery credit, and intangible drilling costs do not trigger the AMT.

Another bias against saving and investment in the current tax system is the capital gains tax. Again, the best remedy would be to remove the tax. Short of that, one way to lessen the problem is to permit investors to defer the tax when they roll over funds from one investment to another. The energy bill would do that on certain dispositions of stock and electric transmission property made to implement federal or state electric regulatory policy. (An additional reason to permit rollover treatment in these cases is that the government is forcing many of the sales.)

As one more illustration of a provision that would improve the tax system, H.R. 4 would allow oil and gas producers to carry back certain net operating losses up to five years, instead of the two years allowed under current law. In effect, a carryback provides income averaging, and a longer carryback provides more income averaging.

Regrettably, the federal government has severely restricted carryback periods in order to pick up extra revenue. A longer carryback period here is a good idea . . . and a better idea would be to apply the rule throughout the economy.

Conclusion

As the energy bill moves to the Senate, it faces many challenges.

With regard to taxes, one top priority is to keep the bill a straight tax cut, which means not adding revenue offsets. Another challenge is to restrain the apparent enthusiasm in the Senate for "green" tax subsidies. And a third priority is to retain those provisions that would help correct existing tax biases.

Michael Schuyler is a senior economist with the Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation.

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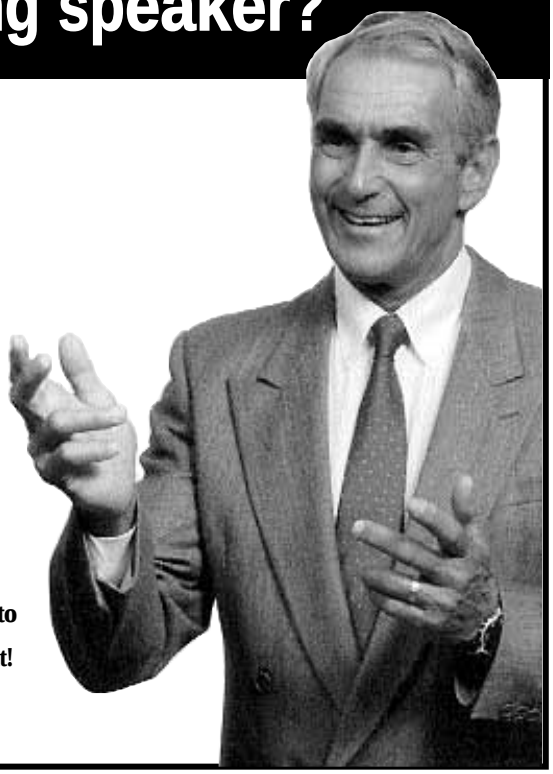

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Nothing good in this old CAFE

Jobs versus fuel economy mandates

BY JAMES JOHNSTON

Government rules requiring higher gasoline mileage for cars and light trucks have the superficial appearance of a good deal. Who wouldn't want better fuel economy?

What the political sponsors of government-mandated mileage improvements fail to tell the public is that these regulations have harmful consequences. They restrict the choice of vehicles their constituents may buy. They do more serious harm by degrading vehicle safety and undermining the national economy.

Restricting choice

Vehicle fuel economy regulations, called CAFE (corporate average fuel economy) have been around for a quarter of a century . . . and nothing good has come of them. They have not and cannot cut the flow of cheaper foreign oil into the United States, the reason for which they were enacted. (Only trade barriers can do that—and who would want to have less energy available today?)

Not only are CAFE advocates unconcerned about restricting the choice of vehicles, that is their intent. But they do it by stealth, requiring carmakers to achieve higher average fuel economy. To do this, manufacturers have had to cut down on the size and weight of their cars—and, thus, the utility of their vehicles (unless, like some European manufacturers, they are willing to violate the rules and pay fines).

CAFE supporters also give no importance to the increase in vehicle costs as manufacturers substitute costly light-weight materials and add expensive technology. They want people to buy smaller, lighter cars and use them less. Their attitude is not unlike that attributed to the Duke of Wellington, who opposed the construction of railroads in Britain because they would, he said, "only encourage the common people to move about needlessly."

"While the auto industry does not have 'new economy' glitter, it remains an integral part of the 'real economy' that is critical to the economic health of our country."

Our modern-day political elitists may also believe this, but they do not have the courage to tell their constituents so. Instead, they promise, in effect, a free lunch and brag about holding the carmakers' feet to the fire. It is the manufacturer, not the member of Congress, who feels the heat because he cannot provide vehicles of the size and performance people may want to buy.

Driver safety

Disregard for how CAFE affects occupant safety is much more important. It is well established that, all other things being equal, a larger, heavier vehicle offers more occupant safety protection in a crash than does a small, lighter car. More vehicle structure absorbs more injury-producing energy in crashes. Unfortunately, carmakers have had to make significant reductions of fleet average weight and size to achieve the large increase in fuel economy necessary to meet existing CAFE rules.

More stringent standards will mean more cuts in size and weight and, therefore, even less safety for the occupants. Insurance industry studies have demonstrated these facts repeatedly. Are their studies to be discounted because, admittedly, the industry has more interest in reducing fatalities than saving perhaps a few gallons of gasoline?

Fuel cells

The greatest technological hope for vehicles powered by non-carbon based fuel is the fuel cell, the Holy Grail of "clean" motor vehicles. All major carmakers are pouring major resources into fuel cell development but, as reported in *Science* magazine recently, fuel cell research dates back 150 years and "high costs and practical difficulties (such as sizzling operating temperature of some designs) have confined them to use in spacecraft, the occasional power plant, and a few prototype vehicles."

We should all hope that the fuel cell or another technological fix will emerge, but those who believe it is at hand need only to look at consumer rejection of the electric vehicles offered in recent years to know hope doesn't always become reality.

Loss of jobs

It is difficult to understand how politicians are willing to ignore the increase in fatalities CAFE requirements have caused. Perhaps because constituents are mostly ignorant of CAFE and its consequences, members of Congress supporting more stringent CAFE are able to ignore these unpleasant facts.

But there is another "unintended consequence" of CAFE that could get the attention necessary to turn off this political attraction to auto fuel economy regulation. Simply put, it is unemployment.

Thousands of jobs are at stake as Congress and the administration consider higher CAFE standards. Today, Americans buy more light-duty trucks (minivans, SUVs, and pickup trucks) than passenger cars. In the year 2000, we bought 9,114,412 light trucks, while buying 8,863,274 passenger cars. These light-duty trucks are assembled in 34 plants located in 18 states from California to New Jersey and from Texas to Wisconsin.

"[T]here is another 'unintended consequence' of CAFE that could get the attention necessary to turn off this political attraction to auto fuel economy regulation. Simply put, it is unemployment."

More than 117,000 people work in these light truck plants, and many thousands more work in plants around the country making component parts for these vehicles. There is absolutely no doubt that the kind of direct or indirect increases in light truck CAFE, included in many bills being proposed in Congress, would cause serious disruptions in production, and possibly shut down at many of these plants.

The unions representing these workers are well aware of the possible impacts.

In testimony before the National Research Council in March 2001, a representative of the United Auto Workers said, "If the product mix had to be changed, phasing out production associated with family-sized, larger, and less fuel-efficient cars, it would lead to plant closings and job loss for workers in those plants and in related industries. We oppose increases that would place the jobs of our members and other workers in serious jeopardy."

The UAW spokesperson went on to say: "Therefore, the financial condition of the companies in the auto industry must also be taken into account." Then, unusual for the UAW, the representative added, "The American public would not derive long-term benefits from the adoption of standards that resulted in the financial decline of the auto producers."

Who will stand up?

Could it be that the customers of auto-producing companies may be rescued from destructive CAFE increases by the auto workers? The UAW, which also has opposed the Kyoto global warming treaty for similar reasons, appears to have a clear vision of the dangers to its members posed by CAFE. They may find the car companies are too divided and disorganized to be counted on to save the jobs of the union membership threatened by CAFE.

While the auto industry does not have "new economy" glitter, it remains an integral part of the "real economy" that is critical to the economic health of our country. As they have in the past, the UAW may have to fight to save their jobs.

There is another group that has a direct and deep interest in this matter: the automobile and truck dealers. They certainly gain nothing from Congressional or administrative action that would restrict the availability of the most popular and profitable models selling today.

The National Automobile Dealers Association has taken an active role in fighting more CAFE in past years. They know what the American car-buyer wants . . . and it isn't smaller, lighter vehicles with lower utility and performance and less safety. Unlike our elected officials, the dealers will have to respond to unhappy customers faced with the news they can't buy the larger, family-size minivans, pickups, and SUVs because they can no longer be made.

Auto workers and dealers may find it's up to them to carry the message to Congress with some vigor and determination. If they do so, they just might carry the day.

James D. Johnston is a resident fellow with the American Enterprise Institute and author of Driving America: Your Car, Your Government, Your Choice *(Washington, DC: AEI Press, 1997).*

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Who needs higher energy taxes?

Even without Kyoto, energy prices are expected to rise

BY S. FRED SINGER

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has announced its intent to "develop strategies to trim potentially huge financial losses that are expected to follow implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change." Rationing the world supply of oil to keep prices up is one strategy OPEC is considering, which could damage the United States economy even if the U.S. does not ratify the Protocol.

The oil cartel estimates emission control measures agreed to in Bonn could eventually cut OPEC revenues by between $22 billion and $63 billion a year.

"[OPEC] estimates emission control measures agreed to in Bonn could eventually cut its revenues by between $22 billion and $63 billion a year."

OPEC Secretary General Ali Rodriguez warns "such losses will make it difficult for OPEC members to justify current and future investments in oil exploration and development, potentially leading to crude supply shortages. The problem is how to guarantee income for the producers in order to maintain the cost of exploration, production, transportation, storage, and refining. If the producers cannot guarantee investment, the world can face many problems with supply."

According to Rodriguez, "joint production restraints with non-OPEC producers could protect revenues that would otherwise be eroded by climate change mitigation policies. Joint management of a relatively buoyant oil price with non-OPEC oil-exporting countries offers the most feasible route to mitigating the severity of losses incurred, together with a full global trading system that is unrestricted by capping."

Carbon taxes associated with Kyoto will only worsen the problem, OPEC says. "Green taxes are a masquerade," complains Kuwaiti oil minister Adel al-Subeih, adding "the oil taxes imposed by western countries will increase further if Kyoto is implemented. And although the aim is to reduce fossil fuel emissions, the taxes will also bring them a huge fiscal windfall. Western governments are trying to blame oil producers, when the blame lies with them."

Comment: Even before Kyoto goes into effect, rising energy taxes in many nations will reduce demand for oil. This comes on top of the economic slowdown, now exacerbated by the terrorist attacks of September 11. This will lower the world price and hurt mainly high-cost producers in the U.S. and elsewhere—unless the OPEC core, mainly Saudi Arabia, decides to restrict production in order to keep the price from falling.

Cheaper than coal?

An article in the August 24, 2001 issue of *Science* magazine, "Exploiting Wind versus Coal," claims wind energy is cheaper than coal and could easily replace 59 percent of U.S. coal-fired electricity generation. By replacing coal with wind energy, the article notes, the U.S. could meet its Kyoto Protocol emission targets.

To reach their conclusion, the authors of the article, Stanford University engineers Mark Z. Jacobson and Gilbert M. Masters, just about doubled the cost of coal-fired electricity by adding externality costs, relying on pro-wind-energy references.

"If the cost of coal-fired electricity is really as high as [Jacobson and Masters] claim, there should be no further need for the substantial federal and state subsidies wind power now enjoys to make it 'competitive.'"

Comments:

- If the externality costs of modern coal plants are really as high as Jacobson and Masters claim, then the Clean Air Act has been a colossal failure and EPA has failed miserably in doing its job.
- If the cost of coal-fired electricity is really as high as they claim, there should be no further need for the substantial federal and state subsidies wind power now enjoys to make it "competitive."
- And if the costs of coal are really that high, then nuclear power is most certainly the cheapest source of electricity.

The Coming Storm:
Extreme Weather and Our Terrifying Future

Yes, that's the actual title of a forthcoming book by Bob Reiss, a writer who has obviously talked to a lot of the wrong climate experts. If you read this book and believe what it says, it will scare the dickens out of you. Much of the "evidence" is anecdotal and relates to people's recollection of the last great storm.

When I debated Reiss on ABC, with Cokie Roberts as moderator, I mentioned that the people I talk to all believe earthquakes have been getting more violent in recent years. Obviously, a consequence of global warming.

Watch the whole performance on the Internet at http://abcnews.go.com/webcasts/samdonaldsonnew/20010831/index.html.

S. Fred Singer, professor emeritus of environmental sciences at the University of Virginia and president of the Science and Environmental Policy Project, shares his thoughts on environment and climate news stories of the month. Singer's The Week That Was columns can be found at www.sepp.org.

Global warming and other myths

What are some of the common features of the Global Warming scare and other widely spread popular beliefs, like astrology, UFOlogy, harmful effects from low-level nuclear radiation and from electric transmission lines?

1. A tenuous scientific base. There certainly is an atmospheric greenhouse effect, but is it significant?
2. Selective use of empirical evidence by ignoring contrary data. Weather satellites, balloon sondes, and a variety of proxy data show no current warming.
3. Misinterpreting other evidence. Deep-ocean warming, shrinking of glaciers and of Arctic ice cover, sea-level rise are all evidence of past—not of current—warming.
4. Adjusting theories to fit the preferred scenario. Bringing in adjustable parameters like aerosols.
5. Manipulating the media. Manufacturing disaster scenarios.
6. Quasi-religious fervor. Faith-based acceptance of coming catastrophes.

Outline of an invited talk by S. Fred Singer to the 10th European Skeptics Congress, Prague, September 9, 2001.

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The American flag marks the area on the rocky slope where six firefighters deployed their fire shelters. Four died, one was badly burned and another escaped with minor burns. Photo: James Hurst/Seattle Times

Forest Service report betrays fallen heroes

EDITORIAL

BY JAMES TAYLOR
MANAGING EDITOR

The past few months have taught us all the true meaning of the word "hero."

Coming face-to-face with the very real possibility of death, firefighters and rescue workers have risked their lives—and many have given their lives—on the chance they might help others live. Although the firefighters in New York sacrificed the most, firefighters from all over the country volunteered to risk their lives in order to help others.

It is in the context of such undeniable heroism that the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service has perpetrated one of the most shameful acts in recent memory.

Forest Service covers its tail

On September 26, as firefighters from all over the country continued to risk their lives combing through the unstable and still-smoking rubble in New York City, the Forest Service issued a CYT (Cover Your Tail) whitewashing of the facts behind the July 10 Thirtymile Fire that killed four young firefighters.

As we reported in the October issue, abundant evidence showed that a "mop up" fire erupted into a deadly inferno only after firefighters were denied water by Forest Service officials weighing the Endangered Species Act implications of drawing water from a local river. But the CYT report glossed over the lack of promised water, instead blaming the firefighters themselves for their own deaths. The issuance of such an inaccurate and callous report is positively shameful.

"It is time for the Forest Service to do justice by these fallen heroes and place the blame where it clearly and properly belongs."

According to published reports describing the incident, an elite firefighting crew had initially brought the fire under control and was awaiting the arrival of a promised water-delivery helicopter to put a final conclusion to the flames. At 9 a.m. it yielded the scene to a novice "mop-up" crew of approximately 20 young firefighters. With the fire under control and the final water delivery due within the hour, the situation was deemed safe for the relatively inexperienced crew.

But the helicopter was delayed several hours while Forest Service officials debated the environmental ramifications of scooping water from the nearby Chewuch River. The Chewuch is home to endangered salmon and trout, and Forest Service officials feared scooping river water might accidentally scoop some fish from the river as well. Forest Service officials debated using Chewuch River water until 2 p.m., when final approval was given.

While Forest Service officials delayed the promised water delivery, the fire gained new life. The first delivery of water arrived around 3 p.m., too late to quench the rejuvenated fire. By 5:25 p.m. firefighters Tom Craven, 30, Devin Weaver, 21, Jessica Johnson, 19, and Karen Fitzpatrick, 18, had all died after flames cornered and then engulfed them in a narrow canyon.

Blaming the victims

The September 26 CYT report began with a 900-word Summary recounting the "facts" of the incident. It failed even to mention the water delay, or the fact the fire had not regained its deadly form until long after the mop-up crew had expected its water delivery.

Following the Summary, the report detailed 14 Significant Causal Factors resulting in the firefighters' deaths. According to the report, "A causal factor is any behavior or omission that starts or sustains an accident or occurrence." Among the 14 Significant Causal Factors, the firefighters were repeatedly singled out for criticism. While omitting entirely any reference to the water delay that allowed the fire to erupt again, the Causal Factors chastised the dead firefighters for the following:

- "Given the rapidly increasing fire intensity and changing fire situation, adequate consideration was not given to identifying escape routes and safety zones."
- "Site selection for the deployment of the shelters above the road contributed to the four fatalities . . ."
- "The improper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) contributed to injuries. Three people occupied one shelter. This exceeded the design capacity (although providing shelter protection of the two civilians was appropriate and justified by the emergency). One crewmember and two civilians did not have gloves; other crewmembers did not wear their gloves. Some of the line gear that was left close to the shelters ignited . . ."

"[F]our young firefighters lost their lives because necessary, promised, and expected water was delayed several hours while government officials agonized over how their actions might affect fish."

The text of the report went out of its way to point out that "Some [firefighters] were taking photographs" of the fire.

Taking photographs of a mop-up fire while the blaze is contained and the crew biding its time waiting for an imminent delivery of promised water hardly seems careless. Nevertheless, the Forest Service has forever etched in the public consciousness the image of careless firefighters causing their own deaths by snapping Polaroids of an advancing blaze. Those who gave their lives fighting this fire deserve better.

Forest Service must do the right thing

Whatever the Endangered Species Act and Forest Service policies may say regarding the use of river water in fighting wildfires, the fact remains that four young firefighters lost their lives because necessary, promised, and expected water was delayed several hours while government officials agonized over how their actions might affect fish.

It is time for the Forest Service to do justice by these fallen heroes and place the blame where it clearly and properly belongs.

Reprint this article in a newsletter, mail it to a friend or relative, or quote it in a letter to the editor of your local newspaper!

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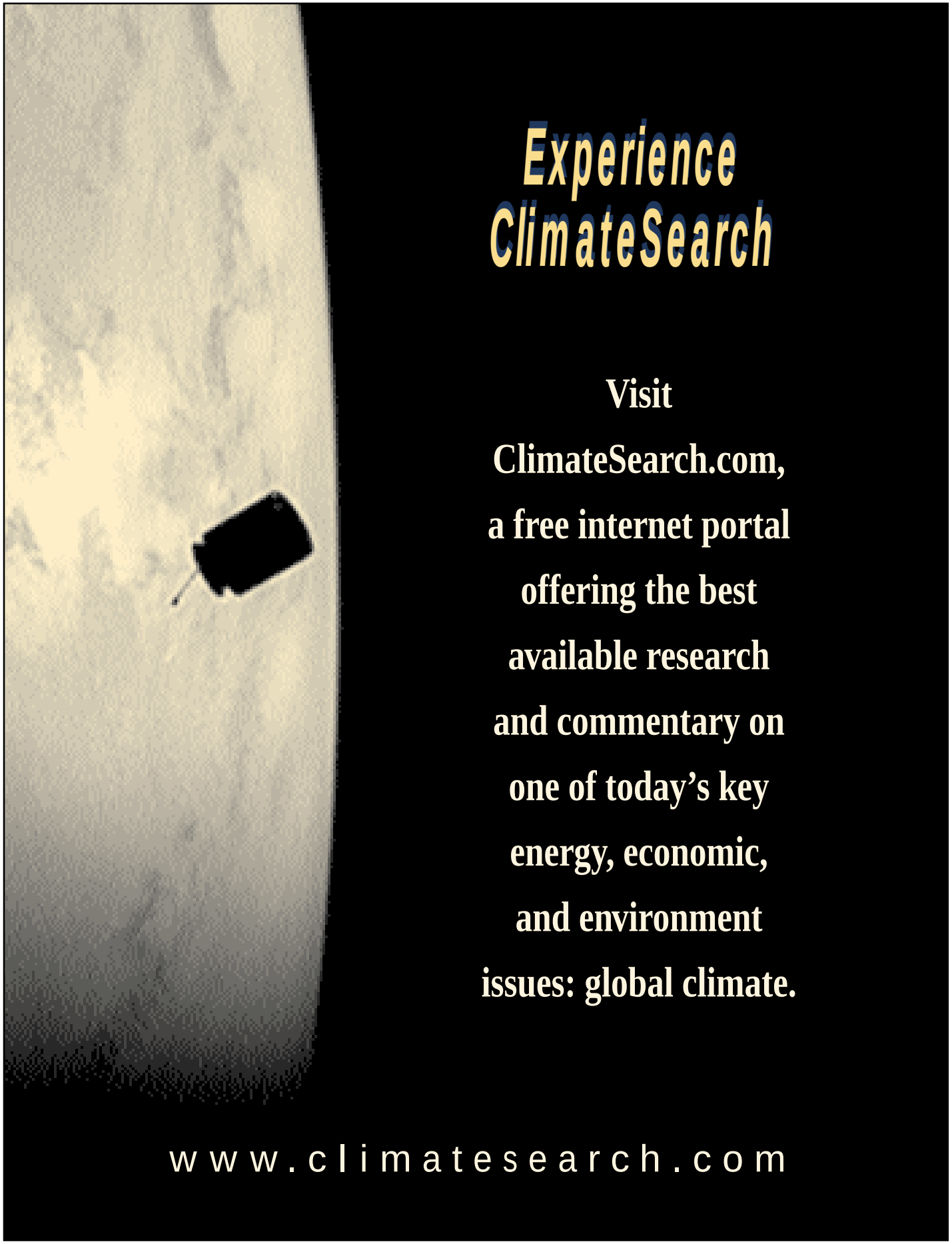

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